How the 'Headless Man' was trapped page 8

I became a witch ... and it's wicked! page 21

• What next for Noel Edmonds? media times pages 38-41

TOMORROW IN THE **SATURDAY TIMES Brat Pop's** next big thing

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 26

TIMES

WEEKDAY

Outcry over £18 charge for pensioners

Millennium Dome tickets cost up to £20

BY MARK HENDERSON AND ADAM SHERWIN

THE Millennium Dome will be Britain's most expensive tourist attraction, with adults paying £20 each for full-price tickets.

Admission prices for the £758 million exhibition announced yesterday by the New Millennium Experience. ompany are particularly steep for the elderly. Single pensioners must pay £18 for a ticket — a discount ofust 10 per cent - while students pay £16.50 and the unemployed get in for E12.

But one offer announced yesterday should be welcomed by people in remote areas. National Express coach lines are introducing a £29.99 flat-rate return fare from anywhere. in the country, which includes Dome entry. This represents a saying of up to £13 on the company's normal fares.

Pensioners groups immediately attacked the Domes entry fee and claimed that the centrageous cost would deter elderly visitors. Alyson Rose of Help the Aged said: "A price of at least half that would be much more realistic — £18 is just under a quarter of the basic state pension." The basic state perision is £66.75, while the average jobseeker's allowance is £50.35.

The £20 ticket for adults is the highest in Britain, beating Alton Towers at £19.50. Families will get big discounts, however. The "Family Five" ticket for two adults and three children or one adult and four children costs just £57, or £11.40 each. That compares favourably with other similar attractions - Al-



Well, so much for the anti-poverty crusade"

of Adventures offer a 159 deal for four people, while Thorpe Park hasa similar ticket al E56. A single ticket for a child aged 5-15 will cost £16.50. while children under 5 go free.

The Millennium Experience company said that most pensioners would come as part of a family group or would benefit from a £12 price for groups of 15 or more senior cruzens. Adults in groups of at least 15 will also get money off, and a mil-lion schoolchildren will win free visits under a lottery announced on

Wednesday by the Prime Minister. Dome prices are deliberately pitched to encourage visitors to-come in groups. Jennie Page, chief executive of NMEC, said: "We want

cople to come to the Dome with family and friends, making the millennium a shared experience they will remember for the rest of their

The prices were fair, and should be compared with one-off events like World Cup football matches or opera performances rather than theme parks that open every day of every year. Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Minister in charge of the Dome-sald they represented "great value

for money".
But Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, was more criti-cal. "A trip to the Dome was never going to be a cheap day out but whether it represents value for money will depend upon what is in it." he said. "It does seem strange that the pricing policy appears to take a more favourable approach to jobseekers than it does to senior citizens." Campaigners said the prices would be too much for families on in-

come support or lone parents. The New Millennium Experience Company must recoup £194 million from ticket sales, merchandising and other commercial deals to meet costs; and must attract 12 million visitors to meet targets. Up to two thirds of all tickets will be sold at a discount, and up to 2.4 million will go to overseas tourists. The rates were set by the NMEC board.

Combined packages involving rail air and boat travel on the Thames will be available.

Tickets will go on sale on September 22 at National Lottery outlets across Britain, and through the Dome's own call centre. No tickets will go on sale for Millennium Eve. Up to 10,000 members of the public will be at the opening night but they are likely to be selected by ballot.

The National Express offer could prove tempting to travellers who want a cut-price ticket to London but do not want to visit the Dome. According to National Express's cur-rent tariffs, a single adult can buy a standard three-month return ticket from Aberdeen to London for a standard fare of £43. By taking the Dome offer, £13 could be saved.

. National Express said: "The finer details have yet to be confirmed but this is a very specific offer and we have not specified yet how and when it will be made available."The Dome tickets will include the provision to return the next day.



A triumphant Mick Füzgerald and See More Business after their Gold Cup triumph yesterday

Times tipster's golden 3,000-1 treble

THE final day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival was a triumph for the Somerset trainer Paul Nicholls and for The Times racing tipster

Rob Wright. Nicholls produced See More Business to win the Tote Gold Cup at 16-1, part of a remarka-ble treble for Wright (below), who also tipped Anzum, the 40-I winner of the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, and Space Trucker, who won the Grand Annual Chase at 7-2. Anyone



investing EI on the three horses to win would have collected £3,136,50.

See More Business, unlucky when well fancied last year, prevailed by a length from the 66-1 shot Go Ballistic. The winner was ridden by Mick Firzgerald, who won Wednesday's Queen Mother Champion Chase on the Nichollstrained Call Equiname

Until this week. Nicholls had not trained a Cheltenham winner. Now he has three and taken the lead in the race for the trainer's championship.

Racing. pages 46, 47, 52



INDIVIDUALS Adults: £20 Children 5-15: £16.50 Children under 5: free Students: £16.50 Pensioners: £18.00 Unemployed: £12.00

CROSSWORDS 26.52

LETTERS 23 OBITUARIES

SIMON JENKINS 22 ARTS 3537

CHESS & BRIDGE 46

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LAW REPORT

BUSINESS-

GROUPS "Family Five" (2 adults/3 children, or 1 adult/4 children): £57.00 Pensioners (15 or more): £12 each Student/college trips: £14.50 each

Tougher GM laws sought

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

NEW laws on labelling generically modified (GM) foods do not go far enough. Britain's leading supermarket

chains said last night.

Members of the British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of retailers including Sainsbury's, Tes-co and Asda, said that they would be labelling foods containing any GM ingredients, including oils and additives not

covered by the regulations.

Shops will face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label foods which contains GM soya and maize. But restaurants and other catering out-

lets will have another six months before they have to declare if any of their dishes contain GM foods. They will not have to list ingredients on the menu, but customers will be able to ask waiters for detailed information on what is

in their meal. Friends of the Earth complained that the new laws would not enable consumers to avoid eating GM ingredients as unsegregated food stocks continue to be allowed into Britain.

Caterers' grace, page 4 Leading article, page 23

TV & RADIO WEATHER Adults (15 or more): £17.50 each School visits: £8 each

Admirals bridge cultural divide to hail the Purple Stone Hero of 50 years ago

FROM JAMES PRINCLE . IN BELIING

IN AN extraordinary gesture of goodwill, almost unheard of in more than 200 years of Sino-British relations, two admirals from Britain and China yesterday took part in a ceremony to mark the tragic events that followed communist shelling of the British frigate, HMS Amethyst, on the

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Perilaheda, Pretage Paul at Rahway Ni Postmatter: Sord midmass convenients in The
Finnes eto Mercary International 365 Blair
Find Award Ni 0700. rai Zhao Guojun, Deputy Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army Navy, dropped a floral wreath over Road Avene Ni 07001.



Yangtze River 50 years ago.
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce,
the First Sea Lord, and Admir

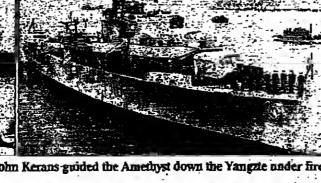
the side of the HMS Boxer into the muddy waters of the Yangte near Shanghai. In doing so they honoured the 17 British and Chinese crew members who died during the seige.
The Amethyst, on a mission to Nanking to relieve another

Navy warship acting as guard-

ship at the British Embassy, was fired on and disabled by

After three months trapped on the river while repairs were carried out, the frigate slipped away one night to freedom. Even today, local Chinese re-

count the saga of the ship they call the "Purple Stone Hero". "It's an integral part of communist folklore," one analyst said. Last night the widow of the commanding officer of the Amethyst spoke of her gratinade at



Lieutenant-Commander John Kerans guided the Amethyst down the Yangzie under fire

the way the 1949 incident had communist artillery batteries. been remembered in China. Stephanie Kerans, widow of Lieutenant-Commander John Kerans, whose bravery and

leadership skills led to the dramatic dash for freedom down 140 miles of the treacherous Yangtze under heavy artiflery and machinegun fire, had been unaware of yesterday's wreath-laying ceremony. On hearing the news, she said: "I

am very happy to hear about this. It will be 50 years next month since the Amethyst incident and there are plans to hold anniversary celebrations in Plymouth."

Mrs Kerans, who lives in Surrey, said she still had a miniature of the frigate which she received from King George VI when she and her husband travelled to Buckingham Palace. Lieutenant-Com-

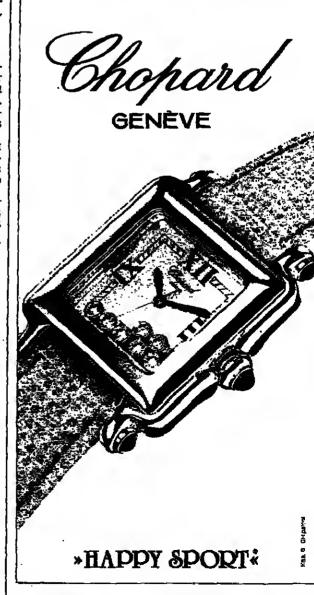
Distinguished Service Order for his courageous leadership. Anthony Galsworthy, the British Ambassador to China, witnessed yesterday's ceremony. The Boxer is on an informal visit to Shanghai - the first by a British warship for more than ten years.

Observers said the tribute was extremely rare in the history of British-Sino ties. With the successful handover of Hong Kong, however, relations between the two countries have improved signifi-cantly. The visit last October by Tony Blair was also regarded as a success by both sides.

The unprecedented gesture of goodwill paves the way for the visit to Britain in June of Admiral Shi Yunsheng, Commander of the PLA Navy. Admiral Boyce, who is on a

five-day visit, is also due to visit the Chinese naval base at Qingdao and Beijing.

Old foes' salute, page 14



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The jargon of education is enough to make anybody sick



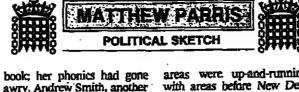
Lucy: in the doghouse

ucy was sick on the Com-mons floor last Thursday morning. 1 now know why. This week, David Blunken's guide dog was barred from Education Questions, answered before lunch

Unkind tongues had sug-ested it was a speech by David Willetts, Mr Blunkett's Tory shadow, which had caused Lucy to take ill last time. Maybe; but something will have triggered the nausea. Watching MPs and ministers discussing education and employment yesterday, led by a dog-less Secretary of State, we guessed the trigger. It's the appalling jargon.

most sick. Education has been hi-jacked by the educationalleft this planet and spins towards a vortex of techno-babble. It started the moment Estelle Morris, a junior minister, rose. She started talking about phonics - and then "synthetic

phonics". The question was about learning to read. Or so I thought But Ms Morris explained that reading meant "accessing the curriculum" and what was needed was a value-added baseline assessment", She added: " what we now have under this Government to which we can definitetake credit for. Morris should access a grammar text-



awry. Andrew Smith, another minister, told us about" a comprehensive programme-two evaluation "of "core performance indicators". Mostly, Mr Smith was talking about New Deal (the definite article is omitted by the on-message) and New Deal triggers Gateways. Gateways, now " rolled out", are "up-and-running".

"Gateway has been an out-standing success-feature," wit-tered Smith. MPs should compare areas "where pathfinder

POLITICAL SKETCH areas were up-and-running with areas before New Deal was up-and-running". Backbencher David Lock (Lab, Wyre Forest) agreed (I think).

Gateway phase is absolutely vital to train people into being job-ready " .Not every backbencher was enthralled. Syd Rapson (Lab. Portsmouth N) confessed to being "an old scepoc" on "personal job accounts" which Smith said would be 'up-and-running" next year (not yet rolled out, you see); but Syd's scepticism still

doubt he's job-ready. Margaret Hodge, a minister who employment-fowanted cussed action plans", told MPs that a " client-focussed service" could "access" an "extensive range" of something or other. Lucy would have been

accessing her sick bag. But back to education, where we were told that " individual learning accounts would act as "catalysis". This is not even good chemistry, let alone plain English. When Mrs Hodge was asked about play schools we nursed the hope she might talk about toys and crayons. Some hope." Diversity of provision," she bur-bled, meant that " choice

should not be decided by a producer-led interest". Poor Lucy. This was a world away from sit! ", "heel!" and "good dog!". Another minister commended nationwide access to interactive learning technology".

Even the normally plain-

speaking Mr Blunkett, lacking Lucy's critical reaction, strayed. Talking of "basic skills needs" in individual learning accounts, he thought that "many account-holders will want to access advice and information." A Liberal Democrat. George Willis (Harro-& Knaresborough) thanked him for "rolling out the issue of tax relief". But Blunkett retains a sense of humour. When new Labour says

programme has made "an encouraging start" you know it's in deep trouble, but Blunkett wanted to assure MPs that under New Deal the jobless would be learning useful skills. As an example of a frivolous skill he was unwise to choose deep-sea-diving, our suntanned Deputy Prime Minister's latest passion. There

were Tory whoops. "Hoist with my own petard!" laughed Blunkett, who then (interestingly) covered his eyes in shame. What he meant, of course, was that he was upwardly-driven by his own catalyst, triggering a roll-out of self-focused embarrassment, now up-and-running.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Forces

serve up

'ethnic'

rations

sensitive ration packs to cater for the different minorities joining the Armed Forces has played a part in doubling the number of black and Asian re-

cruits in the Royal Navy this

year. The proportion of ethnic

per cent - 301 people out of a

total 44,000 - to 1.6 per cent. The target is to increase the

minority personnel in the Navy is increasing from 0.8

Ministers defy lorry drivers over tax threat

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROLAND WATSON

MINISTERS held firm last night over £2 billion of motoring tax increases despite threats from protesting lorry drivers to bring London to a

The drivers are preparing to converge on the capital on Monday in protest at fuel and vehicle tax rises announced in last week's Budget.

Downing Street tried to defuse the row by announcing a meeting next week between John Reid, the Transport Minister, and hauliers. However, the Prime Minister's official spokesman made clear that the tax rises were part of a Budget package that could not be "unpicked" for certain interest groups.

Tensions between the Government and hauliers grew as ministers angrily rejected claims that 400,000 British lorry drivers were worse off than overseas hauliers. The Government argued that overall operating costs for haulage compa-nies were lower in Britain than in other countries. Although senior figures in

the industry tried to deter driv-

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ers from staging a roads pro-test, they said that the action was "inevitable" unless the Government was prepared to soften the impact of the taxes by offering rebates to lorry drivers. The protest is planned to take place near Park Lane on Monday, the day before Dr

Reid meets hauliers. British vehicle taxes and duty on diesel are the highest in Europe and lorry drivers claim they are losing business to overseas firms with lower operating costs.

Dr Reid used a Tory-in-spired debate in the Commons to try to defuse Tory accusations that the Government was "taxing motorists off the road". He said: To suggest that nothing was done in the Budget to assist haulage firms is a grotesque misrepresentaion of the facts.

Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Transport Secretary, accused the Chancellor of "using motorists as a private piggy bank". The Tories said that it was time to end the annual fuel tax escalator, which they introduced. 'The whole point

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of an escalator is that when you get to the top, you get off," Bernard Jenkin, the transport spokesman, said. The Government argues

that running a company with 50 lorries would cost an extra E425,000 in France, E592,000 in Holland and £820,000 in Belgium. However, haulage industry figures suggest that the cost of operating a 40-tonne lor-ry in Britain is £28,000 a year. and £10,000 in France.

Frank Stears, a haulier whose splinter protest group TransAction is organising Monday's protest, said: 'There will be so many of us that traffic will come to a halt. We want the Government to start taking notice of us." The London protest will fol-

low a string of demonstrations in major cities and at ports, Dan Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said: We cannot support any action that is either illegal or inconveniences the public. But the Government must give an indication that there will be a genuine review of the draconian rates of taxation."



Eddie Izzard, Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary, and Gordon Brown at the Gift Aid launch vesterday

Charity bonus targets young adults

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CAMPAIGN to encourage more young adults to make regular donations to charity was opened yesterday by the Chancellor Gordoo Brown and the comedian Eddie Izzard.

Advertisements for the Gift Aid 2000 scheme, which provides tax relief on donations to Third World charities, will appear on beer mats and cinema tickets and will be backed up by a series of televi-

228

sion commercials featuring Izzard. The £4 million campaign is aimed primarily at 18 to 34 year olds, identified as the group most likely to want to give to charity and most interested in tax-efficient

ways of doing so. The campaign follows recent figures published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations showing that individual donations to charity have fallen by nearly a third in the past five years. Gift Aid 2000 was started last year to encourage donations to education and

anti-poverty projects in the world's 80 poorest countries. The Government will make a donation of £30 for every £100 that individuals give to charities working in this area. The minimum donation was reduced from £250 to £100 in last year's Budget and can be made as a lump sum or in small donations.

Donors can join the scheme by calling 0845 075 2000 or by accessing the website www.giftaid2000.org.uk, where more information on the participating charities can be found.

proportion to at least 5 per cent in four years. Yesterday the new ethnic ration packs were unveiled -and tasted - by Doug Hend-

erson, the Armed Forces Minister. To prove the quality of the new cooking styles, Mr Henderson had halal (Muslim) food for breakfast - a vegetable curry.
Captain Andrew Cameron

assistant director of naval recruiting, said the new food was a "metaphor" for the efforts under way in all three Armed Forces to enlist more black and Asian troops.

Health defeat

The Government suffered a fresh defeat in the Lords when peers voted to give privately treated patients the same regulatory safeguards as those in NHS hospitals. Peers voted 161-113 in favour of a Tory amendment during the detailed report stage of the Health Bill, which scraps GP fundholding. The defeat will turned in the Commons.

Customs boost

More than 100 extra Customs and Excise officers will be deployed from the start of pext month to combat alcohol and tobacco smuggling, the Gov-ernment said. An estimated El billioo tax is lost each year to tobacco smuggling. Lord McIntosh of Haringey said at Question Time that the frontline staff would be financed by £35 million from the spending review last July.

Bishop in court

An Anglican bishop has ap-peared in court on a charge of drink driving. The Right Rev Douglas Cameron, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Scottish Episcopal church, made no plea when he appeared be-fore Sheriff Colin McKay in Oban Sheriff Court. The offence is alleged to have happened a month ago, on the road to Tyndrum from Oban. The case continues on Monday.

Missing mother The husband of a woman who disappeared ten days ago appealed for information yesterday as police began searching the Scottish Highlands where her car was found abandoned hundreds of miles from their Derby home. Anne Ball hired the car but it was found dumped on Monday. She has no connections with the area and police are baffled

safety may put paid to protests

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ECO-warriors must be stopped from building forti-fied protest sites before they become the scene of a tragic acci-dent, a Home Office report

warns today.
Unless new trespass laws create fresh criminal or civil powers the increasing sophistication of "defences" built at contentious sites will inevitably lead to serious injury to bailiffs, police or protesters, ac-cording to the study from the inspectorate of constabulary. The report Keeping the

Peace examines current police readiness for disorder and warns that the threat of rioting has broadened from inner city unrest to "single cause pro-tests" such as animal rights and environmental issues which can cost millions.

The two-year battle over the Newbury bypass in Thames Valley cost £18 million. Demonstrations against the export of live animals cost Essex and Sussex police £6 million.

Keith Povey, author of the re-port and one of the Home Office inspectors, warns that society will have to consider the balance between the rights of individuals to peaceful protest and their responsibilities as

Fears over | Howe says Hague stance on Europe could cost election

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD HOWE of Aberavon said last night that William Hague's stance over the single currency could cost the Tories the next election. The former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary said: "We have locked ourselves into a policy position from which there is no escape."

His comments, to be broad-cast on BBC Wales on Sunday, appeared to be a clear breach of the Tory truce on Europe. Mr Hague had agreed with the party's pro-Europeans to leave the issue of the euro in the background until after June's European elections. But to add insult to injury,

Lord Howe added that Ken-neth Clarke should have succeeded John Major as party leader. His criticism came as Mr Hague today tries to get onto the front foot over Europe and the crisis in Brussels.
The Tory leader will insist that none of the 20 European

Commissioners who stepped down on Monday should be allowed to return to office. Tony Blair is supporting the rein-statement of both Britain's Commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock. Mr Hague also hardened the Tories' stance on the issue of sixfigure payoffs due to the Com-



missioners, saying that none

should receive them because

even those not named in the

fraud report had been tainted.

gave a strong nudge to the chances of Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minis-

ter, succeeding Jacques Santer as the Commission President. The Prime Minister's offi-

cial spokesman said: "The

Prime Minister is on record as

someone who has a very good

friendship with Prodi, but he

also respects him as someone

with considerable ability."

Downing Street yesterday

Howe said Tories were "locked in" over Europe

by her disappearance.

Scots colleges may introduce fees form has the support of the National Union of Students. BY JASON ALLARDYCE

SCUTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

STUDENTS from England and Wales may have to pay £1,000-a-year tuition fees at Scottish universities while Scots study for free.

The Scottish Liberal Democrats has pledged to abolish the fees for students living in Scotland, bringing them into line with the policy of Scots Tories and the SNP.

Because Labour is unlikely to win overall control of the Scottish parliament on May 6, the opposition parties are likely to be able to vote out the controversial fees in the first year of the parliament.

All three parties are also committed to eliminating the fourth-year fee which is levied on English, Welsh and Northern Irish students who come to Scotland for four-year degree courses. The educational re-

Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, said that Scotland's economic prosperity in the next century depended on it being a world leader in education. "To achieve this, Scot-land's young people must be

INSIDE SECTION 2 What's price wrong with Brookside? Phil Redmond endians Media Times, page 30

educated to the highest level." Like the SNP, the Lib Dems believe that scrapping fees can be paid for by making savings in the £14 billion Scottish funding block. However, both are prepared to raise income tax

by Ip to finance the move. Susan Deacon, Labours Scottish education spokeswoman, said the announcement showed that only Labour could be trusted not to make Scotland the most highly;

taxed part of Britian. She said that Labour was increasing access and opportuni ty for Scots students with an en tra [24] million over three years to fund 42,000 more places.

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Caterer ready to poach record

A FORMER caterer from Wiltshire looks set to beat Richard Branson to his dream of circommavigating the globe in a

ethnic

rations

balloon.

Brian Jones, 51, has piloted the Breitling Orbiter 3 to within one day of the finishing line. Yesterday he was willing his craft onwards as it approached the Atlantic despenditule that of fuel

ately short of fuel.

To win one of the last great aviation prizes, he and his Swiss co-pilot, Bertrand Piccard, 41, must circle the globe, crossing the same meridian rutes. They do not have twice. They do not have to return to the Swiss Alps, from where they set out 1g days ago. Because they initially diverted to West Africa in order to double back on themselves and catch the best jet streams going over China, they can win by landing in Mauritania. They are due to reach this finish line of 9.27 degrees west tomorrow night. friday

The Fédération Aeronau-tique Internationale, the body regulating the challenge, also stipulates a minimum distance - more than 18,000 miles - to stop balloons flying a little circle over the North or South Poles.

Mr Jones and M Piccard went further than this after breaking the record for the longest distance flight last weekend. If they continue to this afternoon, they will break the record for the longest time a balloon has spent in the air.

The flight has taken its toll, and yesterday both exhausted pilots started taking oxygen af-ter minor breathing problems. They feel ill and cold, and M. Piccard, the grandson of Aucontrol centre in Geneva yes terday by sounding almost incoherent with fatigue.

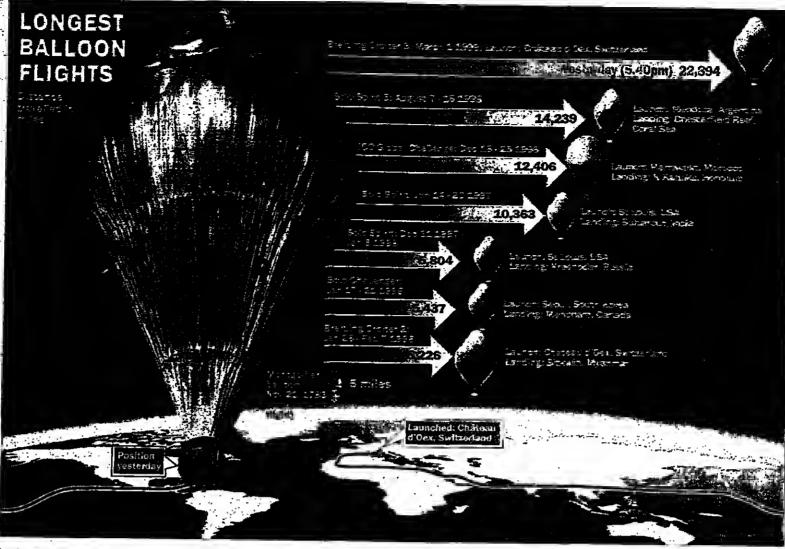
Joanna Jones, Mr Jones's wife, said in Geneva that conditions inside the 6ft by 10ft capsul were grim. They have no one to sound off to and it's a great strain. Hopefully it should get better now they can smell the stable."

By finishing they will not only earn a \$1 million prize put forward by Anheuser-Busch, the makers of Budweiser beer, but the envy of Richard Branson and their other rivals. Mr Branson said that he could identify with their feelings of tiredness and ela-tion. "It looks very much like they're going to make it." he said. "But no one must forget that the most dangerous part of the flight is landing a giant balloon without injury, espe-cially as the pilots will he very tired and low on fuel."

The Virgin tycoon becameobsessed with the challenge nearly ten years ago when he became the first to cross the Atlantic in a hot air balloon. Since then he has risked his life and a sizeable part of his fortune on four failed attempts £3 million a time.

By contrast, Mr Jones, a grandfather of three from Devizes, was plucked out of obscarity to enter the competi-tion in November. He had been part of the Breitling support team, and when the Brit-ish pilot. Anthony Brown, dropped out at the last mo-ment due to personality clash-es with the mercurial M Piccard, he stepped in.

Mr Jones is a very different personality to Mr Branson.



business that would go on to run a transatlantic airline, Mr Jones went into the RAF and then a catering business.

In 1986 he was at a festival involving Cameron balloons in Bristol, took one flight and was hooked. He immediately bought his own balloon from Cameron, who went on to build the Breitling craft. It became an all-consuming

passion, and when his busi-ness suffered during the recession two years later, he gave it up to found his own ballooning company, becoming an instructor and an examiner. "He is not an adventurer, he's professional pilot who approaches things in a judged manner," Mrs Jones said,

Andy Elson, whose Cable and Wireless balloon came down near Japan while com-peting with the Breitling bal-loon, empathised with the strain in the capsule. Brian is a lovely bloke and one of my guste Piccard, who invented like Mr. Branson, he left best mates. It's nailbiting to the pressurised cabin used in school at 17, but while the watch him. But my overall feel-modern balloons, alarmed the young entrepreneur founded a ing is that they must be safe."

Men who rose to the challenge

Stave Fossett American millionaire Three solo fights

Estimated cost to Fossett: £5 million Michael Branson Sed Per Lindstreed Virgin millionelin; Swedish businessm Three digits, two abortive due to bed her and lost balloon.

Estimated cost to Virgin: £8 million Richard Branson, Per Lindstrand, St One flight Total estimated cost to ICO Global

Communications: £3 million

Three flights (with Wim Verstraeten, Andy Elson and Brian Jones respectively) Estimated cost to Breitling £9 million Andy Elson and Colin Pres Two British balloonists

£3 million



Explorer abandons lone trek in Arctic

By JOANNA BALE

A BRITISH adventurer yes-terday abandoned his attempt to complete the last great Arctic challenge, a solo unassisted trek to the

geomagnetic North Pole.
David Hempleman-Adams, 42, was due to be rescued from Canon Fiord, an iceshelf close to Ellesmere Island last night, after sending a radio message that he

was having difficulties with his sledge and skis. Mr Hempleman-Adams, of Box, near Cor-sham. Wiltshire, who had walked at least 30 miles since March 8, had been hoping to complete the 250-mile trek across mountains, ravines and moving ice in 20 days, without the aid of dogs, snowmobiles or air supplies. He said: "I have complet-

ed enough solo adventures and I have taken a decision that this will be the last - it is not fair on my family."

Backroom worker who ensures seamless uplift

By Simon de Bruxelles SOUTHWEST CORRESPONDENT

ONE slipped stitch and it would be shower curtains for the Breitling Orbiter. But Eileen Davies, who spent eight weeks sewing the 180% of the balloon together is confihigh balloon together, is confident her seams will hold.

As the vast diaphanous envelope floats towards the finishing line, excitement is rising back at the Cameron Balloon factory in Bristol. Every day as they arrive for

work anxious staff stop to check the overnight progress reports pinned to the notice-board. They know their handi-work is being put to the ulti-mate test, especially Miss Jones, who triple-stitched each seam before it was sealed to prevent any of the precious helium leaking out. "We'll have a party if they make it," said Miss Davies,

26. "I always check the map in

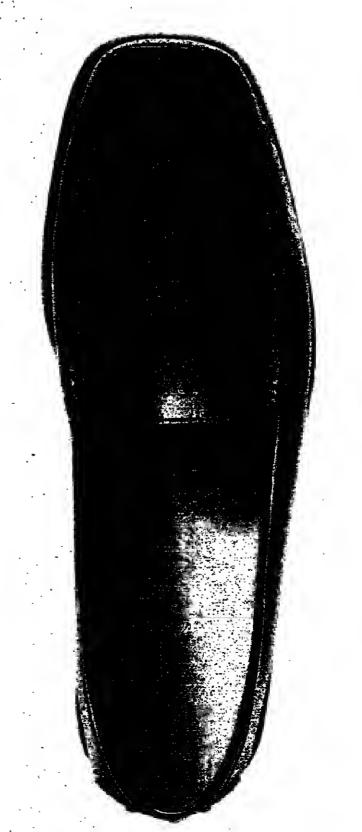


Eileen Davies: only been up in balloon once

the morning and watch the news when I get bome to find out how they're doing." Miss Davies, who has worked for the Bristol-based company's "gas" department for eight years, has only been up in a balloon once. She says the exshe would not want to swap aces with the pilots of the Breitling Orbiter.

Don Cameron, 59, the man who built Britain's first modern hot air balloon in the 1960s, and his team designed and built three of the four recent round the world challengers, including the Cable and Wireless balloon which broke the record for the longest flight last month before being forced to ditch in the sea off Japan. Only Richard Branson's pilot, Per Lindstrand, preferred to build his own.

Mr Cameron described the millionaire businessman's balloon as large but unsophisticated compared with the latest of the three Breitling Orbiters. He said: "We think Branson ran out of fuel somewhere over China so he never really had a hope of making it, though there is enough still enough rivalry in the attempt that he wouldn't tell us that."



Briton accuses Bangladesh police of rape

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA AND STEPHEN FARRELL

BRITISH woman has claimed that she was raped by police in Bangladesh when

she went to report a theft.
The tourist, who has not been named, said she was raped by four officers at a police station in the capital, Dhaka, some months ago. Human rights lawyers

claim that police regularly attack women in custody. The Foreign Office last night re-fused to discuss the case, but a spokesman reiterated advice the British Consul in Dhaka Ihat "women should not go into police stations or

similar agencies". The Foreign Office's official travel advice, last updated yesterday, does not mention rape. but says visitors should take extra care and adds: "There have been reports of police abusing their authority. Arrange to be accompanied to the police station when reporting meidents,"
The woman, who has left

Bangladesh, made no formal complaint and no charges were brought. Officials at the British High Commission said yesterday that the incident was considered serious and they had written to the Interior Ministry to express concern. Under a law dating from the

days of the Raj. Bangladeshi police can put any woman be-hind bars under the pretext of giving her "safe custody". Local newspapers have reported many incidents of rape and deaths in safe custody.

Last year a five-year-old girl was allegedly raped in a police mess inside the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates' Court complex in Dhaka. Aid workers say abandoned women. prostitutes and homeless children are particular targets of sexual abuse

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party used the attack to condemn the secular Government of the Prime

Father of Julie Ward tells court of last days

BY SAM KILEY

JOHN WARD s Il-year cru-sade to find the killer of his daughter, Julie, entered a gruelling stage yesterday when he appeared in a Nairobi court to face Simon ole Makallah, the warden who led him to Julie's dismembered and burned re-

Mr Ward, who has spent more than £300,000 in a quest which began in 1988 when the Kenyan authorities first claimed Julie had been killed by wild animals in the Masai Mara Reserve

Yesterday he told the court of the day when he heard that Julie, 28, had gone missing. Mr Ward said that Julie had been a "quiet girl, a gentle per-

"She avoided trouble where possible and she had a happy disposition. One of her hobbies was photograph." Mr Ward recalled that his daughter, went to the Masai Mara to photograph the annual migra-



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Caterers given respite over GM labelling

SHOPS and supermarkets face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label any food which contains genetically modified soya and maize.

However, the country's 125,000 restaurants, fast-food outlets, cafes, pizza chains and hot-dog stands have until Sep-tember 19 before they must know the GM contents of the dishes they serve. Menus will not have to list the GM content of every dish on offer. Instead notices will be on display on premises if any food contains GM soya or maize.

Customers will have to ask waiters and waitresses for specific information about dishes which contain a GM product. Restaurants will not be able to get away with "defensive labelling" saying that food "may contain" GM products.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said: "Forget 'may contain'. We are not in the business of 'may contain'. It's got to say genetically modified or genetic modification. The EU directive states 'does con-

"What we are asking restaurants to do is to be in a position so that if a customer asks if there are GM ingredients to know, not to say I will check and find out next week'. " GM tomato paste is exclud-

ed from the new law but Mr Rooker said that premises had "a moral obligation" to inform customers if it was used.

He suggested that Zeneca's tomato paste could also soon be covered by further new laws which would also be extended to the GM content of additives and flavourings. The Government would also have to decide soon if a GM-produced tomato by Zeneca could be approved for sale.

The six-month gap for catering companies will allow staff to be trained to answer queries and will give them time to check upon their own supplies and if their ingredients contained GM soya or maize, Mr Rooker said. If mistakes were made, the prosecution would be against the catering owners or management and not the table staff. The new laws will be en-

forced by environmental health officers but it is understood they intend to "go genthy until people understand the requirements. The new laws will not apply to ingredients such as the emulsifier lecithin and cooking oils. Al-



though these products are derived from the GM process they contain no GM protein and so any meal cooked in GM soya oil or a chocolate biscuit can be labelled GM-free.

Most supermarkets in Britain have already introduced their own GM labels and most have also included GM derivatives not covered by the new laws. Some retailers have also banned GM ingredients in

their own-brand products. Catering companies said that the new laws were unworkable and unenforceable. Michael Gotliebb, director of . the Restaurants Association, said: "Our members have spent a lot of money designing and printing menus and these

'Also, most of our suppliers don't have a clue whether or not their products contain GMs so how can they tell restaurateurs in the first place."

may have to be changed to ac-

commodate the new rules.

He called on the Government to say if the food was safe: "If they are not they should not be produced and if they are then the Government should stick to its guns and not bow to idiotic pressure. They seem to be taking the easy route out."

The new laws were also described as totally inadequate by environmental groups who believed the Government had "conned" the public and put the burden on small businessmen instead of large compa-

nies such as Monsanto. Friends of the Earth, which has called for a five year ban on GM foods, said: "The reality is that the public will still be eating unlabelled food containing GM ingredients even after this law is passed." ☐ Lord Sainsbury, the Science

and Technology Minister, has met the director of a company involved in genetically modified food research in which he had an interest "a number of times" the Trade and Industry Secretary said yesterday.

Stephen Byers said in a Commons written reply: "I understand that he has met with Christopher Stone of Diatech Ltd on a number of times on a personal basis but on no occasion were any aspects of the work or investments of any of the companies placed in the blind trust discussed."

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. said: "How can the public believe that this minister is inde-pendently minded on GM foods and crops?"

Enforcement is likely to be costly and slow

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ENFORCING the food labelling regulations is likely to prove an expensive operation for trading standards officers. Tests exist for detecting whether foods contain geneti-

cally modified ingedients but they cost £100 to £200 a time and take ten days. At present only two public analysts' laboratories in Britain are equipped to carry them out. One of the laboratories, at Worcestershire County Council, tested 200 food products for GM sova last autumn and

found that about 60 contained some. Bob Stevens, a public analyst who works for the council, said that although they had been busy they had not yet had to turn away work. That could change if the new regulations produced a string of complaints to trading officers and they needed to be

investigated.
The Food and Drink Federation, which welcomed the announcement by Jeff Rooker. says that it now urgently needs' clarification from the European Commission over

the details of the regulations. In particular, an FDF spokesman said, the EC needed to set a threshold below which foods would count as GM-free. That was likely to be set well below I per cent and . Mr Stevens feared it would add to the problems of testing.

"We can test for GM ingredients and say whether they are there or not but it is difficult to say how much is there" he said. "In any case, people who want to avoid GM foods will want to ensure that there is none there, not that it falls below an arbitrary threshold."

cised the regulations for excluding foods that are derived from GM crops but which no longer contain any evidence of it. Examples include oils prepared from soya beans, which contain no proteins, and lecithins (emulsifiers made from

Mr Rooker argues that labelling such foods would be misleading because the accuracy of the labels could never be checked. But consumers who object to GM foods on moral rather than safety grounds, as some do, are unlikely to be sat-

isfied by that awser. Pete Riley of Friends of the Earth declared that the regulations were worthless because' they were "built on sand". Until soya and maize entering the country was segregated into GM and non-GM, he said. more and more foods would contain GM ingredients. "All this means is that UK food manufacturers and hot-dog men will pay the costs im-posed on us by unscrupulous

Firms accused of ignoring fears

BY NIGEL HAWKES

THE companies behind the genetically modified crop revolution have been accused by a senior government adviser of a "lamentable lack of consideration" for consumer and

industry concerns. Professor John Beringer, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, which advises the Government on whether it is safe to plant GM crops, said. in the foreword to committee's annual report that the companies had picked the wrong products to pioneer GM tech-nology and had failed to carry

the public with them. I am very disappointed that, on the whole, the large biotechnology companies have displayed a lamentable lack of consideration for the feelings of the general public and concerns of the food industries that depend upon the commodity crops that are produced," he wrote. "Distrust of

ible to me that some of the first fruits of a new and poten-tially very frightening technol-ogy should have been herbicide tolerant crops and crops carrying genes that con-

fer resistance to important clinical antibiotics. "While I believe that GM crops on the market presently pose no greater threat to huthan the traditional varieties from which they are derived, it is not surprising that this view is not taken by many groups that claim to represent public opinion."

In a written submission to the Commons Science an Technology Committee, Pro fessor Beringer accessed-the European Commission of harfdling applications to market GM products in an "extraordinarily inefficient way", lead ing to long delays in getting

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Angels are out but Onan is in, says Vatican

is diluting its belief in the existence of angels and strengthen-ing its opposition to the death penalty. In addition, it says that masturbation need not al-

mays be regarded as a sin.
The Vatican has made the changes in the revised edition of the Catachism of the Catholic Church—the book that sets down the principals of the Roman Catholic religion in a question and answer form.

Because of the growth in "angelology" and its association with New Age beliefs, the Church is reducing its emphasis on the existence of angels. It has ejected some, although not all, from the Catechism. Christian teaching on matur-

bation has generally empha-sised the sinfulness of the prac-tice, and the Vatican maintains that it is "an instrinsically and gravely disordered ac-tion". Priests in the confessional often hear tormented Catholics who fear eternal damna-tion because they believe masturbation to be a mortal sin.

In the revised Catechism,
while the Church does not endorse masturbation, it argues that psychological factors such as anxiety and maturity reduce moral culpability "to a

Father Terence Phipps, lecturer in moral theology at Aiken Hall, a leading seminary in London, said: "Masturbation has always been regarded as a grave matter." Catholics had often interpeted this to mean it was a mortal sin. He said: "There are many factors that reduce cul-

nentis

Ruth Gledhill and Edward

chism aroused controversy when it was published in 1994 because of its acknowledge-

a mitigating paragraph to its catechetical teaching. It states:

"Today, in fact, as a conse-

quence of the possibilities

which the state has for effec-

fively preventing crime, by ren-dering one who has commit-

ted an offence incapable of do-

ing harm - without definitive-

ly taking away from him the

possibility of redeeming him-

self - the cases in which the ex-

ecution of the offender is an ab-

solute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

Welsh report on the changes of

emphasis in the new Catechism

away completely. There are cases of almost compulsive ac-tion in that area. People get very worried because they think it is a mortal sin." The revised edition of the Catechism made it "absolutely clear" that

it need not be sinful.

When teaching moral theology, he said, he did not lay great emphasis on the story of Onan, who was struck down and slain by God "for spilling his seed on the ground". "It produces scriptural resonances of one touch and a thunder bolt. It is not the mechanical act of spilling the seed that is wrong, but the turning in on

He added: "The act itself is still regarded as unsatisfactory. But the culpability of the agent is considerably diminished. We are not saying, fine, go ahead and enjoy yourselves. It is still objectively it wrong, but subjectively is might not always be sinful."

In another important change that is certain to be controversial, especially in America, the Vatican has deemed that cases where the death penalty can be justified are "practipability and can even take it cally non-existent". The Cate-



Father MacAulay told parishioners he was not likely to return after a study trip abroad

Shand Kydd's priest books into clinic

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Roman Catholic priest who comforted Frances Shand Kydd when her daughter, Diana, Princess of Wales, died has been booked into an addiction clinic in the United

Father Sean MacAulay, 45, left St Columba's Cathedral in Oban, Argyll, on Wednesday to fly to the St Luke Institute io Maryland, which specialises in treating priests with depression, sexual problems and addictions, including drink problems.

He took over as parish ad-ministrator in the wake of the scandal surrounding Roddy Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who eloped with Kathleen MacPhee, a divorced mother of three, in the summer of 996. It also emerged that Mr Wright, 58, had a teenage son by an earlier mistress. The former Bishop and Mrs MacPhee, 43, have since married and live in Lancashire. When the Princess died Mrs Shand Kydd, who lives

near by on Seil Island and worships at St Columba's Ca-thedral, turned to Father MacAulay for support. She had acted on occasions

as his temporary housekeep-er. Father MacAulay said at the time: "I turned on the television and saw reports of the accident. I immediately phoned Frances and she just said 'Diana is dead'." In the days that followed he was a regular visitor at her home.

Father MacAulay, a priest for 20 years, told his parishioners at the weekend that he would be leaving to attend a study trip abroad for a month and was unlikely to return.

He said the move had come "quite suddenly" and apologised for any upset he may have caused. Sources said gos-sip had been circulating in the small fishing village on the West Coast of Scotland for some time about his personal life. He was seen drinking regularly in a local bar. The Church refused to confirm the

Hume urges more trust in teachers

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

the "constant public pillory ing" of teachers. They needed fewer controls and greater trust placed in them, he said." The Archbishop of Westminster added that pride in the profession and respect for teachers had to be rebuilt. It should be as hard to enter-teacher training college as medical school. He cited low. pay as a reason why more young people did not enter

Cardinal Hume told a conference organised by the Teacher Training Agency that

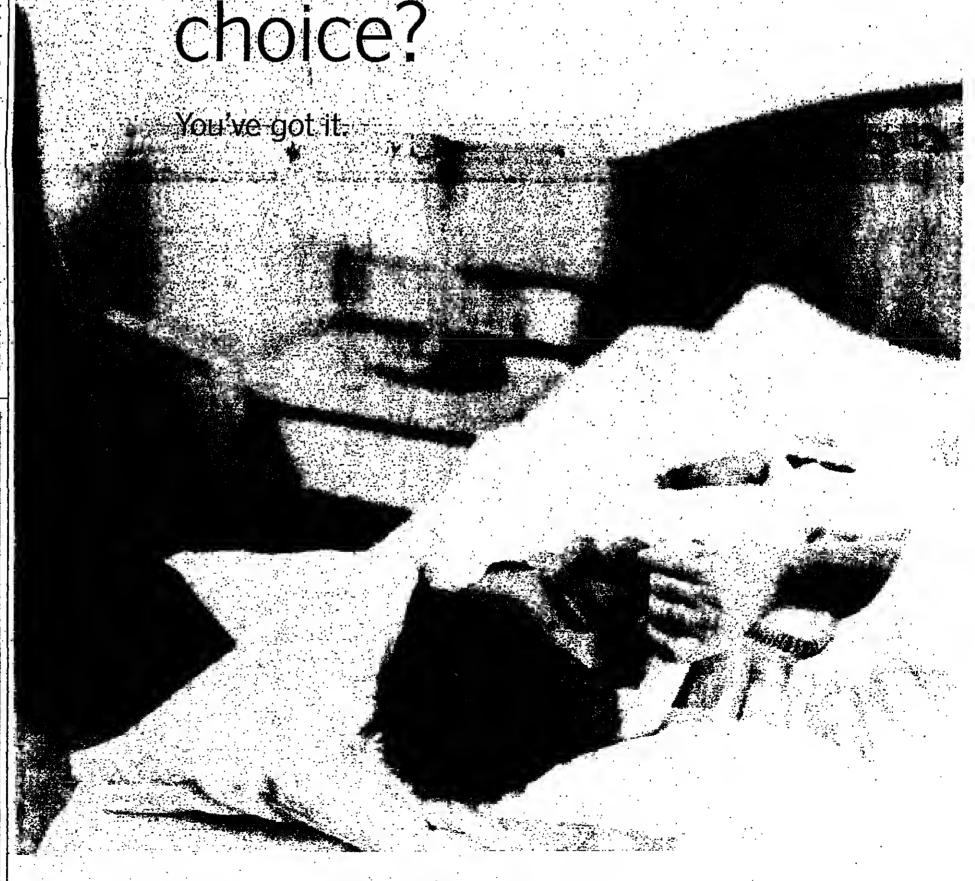
teaching as a career.

CARDINAL Basil Hume ing profession was along with ed. degenerative threatening society's future.

The cardinal said that teachlaw and medicine in terms of status and reward. Instead. teachers were often bearing the brunt, along with parents. of a "culture of contempt".

. He was speaking as a survey in the Catholic Herald shows that many Roman Catholic head teachers are finding it difficult to recruit Catholic teachers to their schools. One head said that the shortage was due to a "lack of Catholics with quality teaching skills

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Malcolm Curnow: blamed surgeon for daughter's death

Families split over blame for heart deaths

SPECTATORS wept in the public gallery yesterday as the leaders of two opposing groups of parents told the Bristol heart surgery inquiry how their daughters died after

Malcolm Curnow, a police-man from Cullumpton, Dev-on, was convinced after his daughter Verity died that Janardan Dhasmana, a surgeon at Bristol Royal Infirmary, was to blame.

Michelle Cummings, from Bristol, felt that everything had been done for her daugh-ter Charlotte by James Wisheart, the same surgeon who had saved her husband's

life 25 years ago.
Mr Curnow, spokesman for the Bristol Heart Children's Action Group, which led the campaign for the inquiry, said that his consent for the operation on his daughter in September, 1990, was fraudulently obtained because he was told by Mr Dhasmana that the procedure was simple, routine and uncomplicated.

He did not know that medical notes said that his ninemonth-old daughter was so ill she might need a heart-lung transplant and was horrifed after the operation when he saw his baby ashen-faced and near death in the recovery

She died four days later. Mr She died four days later. Mr
Dhasmana apologised to him
and admitted that there were
unexpected complications in
carrying out the procedure to
replace an artery with a tube.
Mrs Cummings, spokesman for the Bristol Surgeons'
Surport Group, went as she

Support Group, wept as she told how her daughter died in her arms in February 1989, drowning in her blood as her damaged valves gave out. Charlotte was two years old and had been cared for by Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart.

and said she believed that he had given her daughter the best possible care. After Charlotte died, Mrs Cummings met Mr Dhasma-na in the corridor: "He gave me a big hug and expressed

She described Mr Wisheart

as very "gentle and sensitive"

incredibly genuine and sensi-Mrs Cummings's husband,

his sorrow at our loss. He is an

Rob, was operated on by Mr Wisheart, who repaired two holes in his heart and enlarged a narrow artery below it. He is now fit and well, and Mrs Cummings said that, without Mr Wisheart, he would not be alive to have fathered her two other chil-

The inquiry was set up after the General Medical Council carried out an investigation into the deaths of 29 children at the hospital during opera-tions by the two surgeons. Both surgeons were cen-

sured by the GMC last June for continuing to operate on babies even though they knew that too many were dying. Mr Wisheart was struck off the medical register and Mr Dhasman was suspended from operating on children and lost his job. He is now asking an industrial tribunal to reinstate

John Roylance, the chief ex-ecutive of the hospital, has also been struck off the register for failing to stop the opera-tions. He has appealed against

The inquiry continues.



Michelle Cummings: felt everything was done for her daughter

Huge rise in claims against family doctors @

FAMILY doctors are 13 times more likely to be successfully sued by their patients than they were ten years ago and 33 times more likely to face spurious legal action, according to the Medical Protection Society, which represents 45 per cent of GPs in Britain.

In 1989 there were 38 claims against GPs, but last year this figure rose to 500. Over the same period the size of settlements for medical negligence (cin cases involving GPs rose) steeply. The highest settlement in 1989 was £777,000 while last year if was El,675,000.

Many of the cases are brought on legal aid and later abandoned when it becomes clear there is no case against the GP. The Medical Protection Society has spent almost £7 million over the past five years on cases that were subsequently dropped - money

which cannot be recovered. The figures show that GPs face an ever growing risk of having to defend themselves against lawsuits," John Hickey, medical director of the society, said. "In addition to those

cases which are successfully brought against GPs, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of failed legal actions." Nurse tells why

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she blew whistle BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A NURSE who reported a doctor to police said yesterday that an elderly woman died in his care looking like a victim Mary Ormerod, 85, a wid-ow who had suffered several

high-protein supplement Fre-subin on the orders of Ken Taylor. She died 58 days later at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, weighing 3st 12b: Rachel Towers, an agen-cy nurse, alerted police and the local bealth authority within hours of laying out the body on August 26, 1995.

Miss Towers told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council: She looked like someone from pictures I have seen of Holocaust and the

Miss Towers said that she went to see Mrs Ormerod after care assistants voiced concern. "It was immediately apparent to me that she was emaciated and in a weakened



state. I would describe the situation with which I was confronted as unthinkable. I felt that the issue was one of cutha; nasia and I resolved that f would not have any part in it."

Several nurses are under investigation by their govern ing body for allegedly break ing their code of practice by failing to comply with a doc-

Dr Taylor, 51, denies seri-ous professional misconduct. The hearing continues.



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Sir Cliff's plea to millennium stars

SIR CLIFF RICHARD called yesterday to follow his lead and to devote their earnings in the closing hours of the millen-

WEST 10 1994

n claims

against

family

doctors

mum to charity. Amouncing that he is organ-ising a concert in Birmingham on New Year's Eve for Chil-dren's Promise, an affiliation of seven children's charities. Sir Cliff said: "I hope that people will not rip this country off because it's the millennium. I don't think we should capital-

"All I know is that I'm not going to do that. I'm going to do something which is posi-five. It's good for the nation not everyone is on the take that

The pop singer told a press conference at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. where he is holding ten concerts in the run-up to the millennium: "I come from a privileged position. I've made a lot of money and I have given a

The singer's call for concerts to aid charity may be too late, report

Claudia Joseph and Alex O'Connell

is always a tough thing to ask, but there are a lot of good hearts in showbiz and I trust they will be inspired by the

It may be too late for Sir Cliff to move some showbiz hearts. Elton John has confirmed a booking in Las Vegas with Tina Turner on the eve of the millennium for an undisclosed sum. Barbra Streisand is said to have made a £13.5 million deal for a concert in the same city on the same

night. Tickets will cost £1,250. David Bowie will perform at a £133 to £199 a head concert in eastern New Zealand. The venue will be one of the first to see the dawn break on Janu-

of money and I have given a Björk is leaving her home in lot away. I intend to continue West London for her real home in Iceland, where she "I am asking people to do will perform in the capital, something for nothing which Reykjavik. The Spice Girls and Robbie Williams are said to have been signed up for a concert in the Millennium Dome, but organisers say they

are still arranging the final ne-up. Neil Diamond is forecast to receive £9 million for a millen-nium concert and the Rolling Stones are expected to receive E6.25 million, although a booking has not been confirmed. Celine Dion is planning a concert in Montreal

So far the only group to offer a free concert is East 17. The band's members, Terry Cold-well and John Hendy, have pledged a concert if the Government spends the £1.6 bil-lion Millennium Fund on housing the homeless. Sir Cliff said that he had

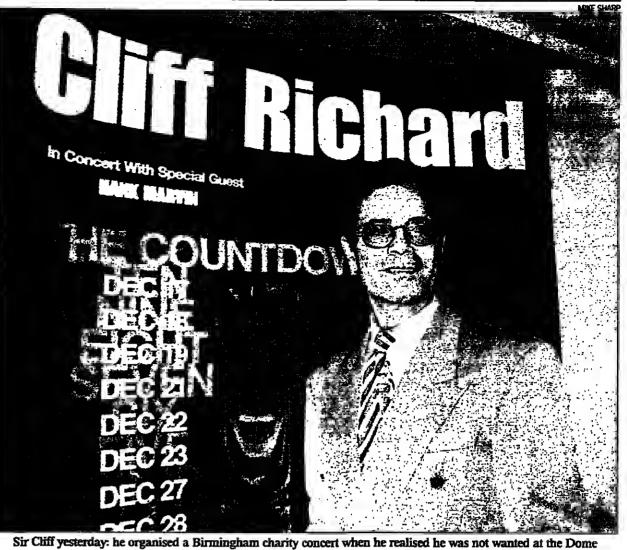
hoped to take part in the celebrations at the Dome but had not been invited. He is now holding a concert on Decem-

ber 31 for 13,000 people, with tickets selling at £75 and £100. Hank Marvin will fly in from Australia to appear as a guest.

Sir Cliff said: "I've always jokingly said to my friends that when it comes to the busi-ness of passing time. I'm Father Time himself when it comes to pop-rock. I've been around five decades. I thought, if there's a show they' re bound to ask me, so I hung on, but now I realise they haven't got anything like that planned anyway. So I thought if they are not going to have one, I shall do one on my

By midday yesterday Birnngham arena had sold 50,000 tickets, costing £1.5 million, for his ten concerts. The money to be raised by the mil-lennium concert for Children's Promise is estimated at £1 mil-

Tony Blair said: I wholehearted endorse Sir Cliff's support for this project and should like to thank him for giving so generously of his services and for encouraging



Sir Cliff yesterday: he organised a Birmingham charity concert when he realised he was not wanted at the Dome

Find in field is jewel linked to King Alfred

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXOUISITE Anglo-Saxon jewel with links to King Alfred; which a metal-detector enthusiast stumbled across in a Wiltshire field, is expected to make more than £300,000 at

David Rylett, 56, a Hampshire builder who had never turned up anything of value in his 19 years of metal-detecting discovered the mudencrusted rock crystal of the late 5th or 6th century within a 9th-century gold setting on of Valentine's Day 1977.

The jewel is an aestel or pointer and would have been



Mr Rylett's find, known as the Wessex Jewel

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used to turn the pages of religious manuscripts.

When he unearthed it Mr

Rylett assumed the object was a Victorian fob piece, but decided later to send it to the British Museum. In fact, the aestel is only the fourth of its kind to have been unearthed in Britain: the aestel known as the Alfred Jewel, which bears an inscription "Alfred had me made", is in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. A second is also at Oxford and a third in the British Museum.

Susan Youngs, of the Botish Museum, explained that it crystal with a blue gem inside and would have held a pointer to turn the pages of manu-scripts. It is believed to have out by Alfred during his reign

After a treasure trove i quest in Salisbury, it was decided that the jewel had been abandoned and that Mr Rylett should be granted own-ership. He is giving half the proceeds from the sale to the owner of the field. The jewel will be sold by Christie's South Kensington on April 21.

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A portrait of the Duchess of Argyll wearing those pearls

AND MICHAEL HARVEY

THE late Lord Denning trapped the infamous "headless man" into revealing his role in the scandalous 1963 divorce of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, her biographer says today:

Michael Thornton identifies the man in his forthcoming biography of the late duchess. Argyll versus Argyll, thus solving one of the century's most lurid

The "headless man" featured in a series of photo-graphs that helped the duke to win a divorce. The pictures show the duchess, naked apart from a three-strand string of pearls, and her lover, also naked, in the bathroom of her house in Upper Grosvenor Street, London. She is performing a sex act on him, but the self-set camera has cut off her lover at the neck.

In a letter to The Times to-day, Mr Thornton says that the former Master of the Rolls, who became involved in the case because of its links with his Profumo inquiry, told him of interviewing the main suspect and setting an "ingenious trap". With the help of the police. Denning then established who the headless man was.

Over the years the prime susect has been the actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr., but other suggestions have included an American businessman and Duncan Sandys, the former senior Conservative minister. The 11th Duke of Argyll suspected more than 80 men of being his wife's lovers.

Mr Thornton says Denning. who died this month at the age



Suspects: Douglas Fairbanks Jr, left, and Duncan Sandys

of 100, invited him to his home in Hampshire to discuss the case in interviews, which the biographer tape-recorded. Mr Thornton praises Denning's detective skills. "He was more than merely an oustanding judge. He had the razor-sharp mind of a great detective and forensic investigator. These qualities enabled him to set an ingenious trap for the witness in question and, with the help of the police, to establish beyond doubt that he was the

man in the photographs.

proud of this sleuthing and imposed no restrictions upon me with regard to it."

The biographer adds: "Darting about his study with an agility astonishing in a man of 88, be pulled out file after file containing highly sensitive material on which his report was based. It revealed that three Conservative ministers had been involved in the Argyll divorce, and that one had felt obliged to offer his resignation from the Cabinet.

Lord Denning showed me

by which this minister had been cleared of being the man in the photographs, as the late Duke of Argyll mistakenly believed him to be.

The minister had been the duchess's lover, and had paid the duke a sum of money in consideration for not being cited in the divorce action — a fact which Denning, in his report, held to be without foundation, but only because no evidence could be found in 1963 to substantiate it. Both the duke and the duchess subsequently admitted it was true."

The headless man is said to be considering legal action to prevent the publication of his name. Mr Thornton bas said: This is somebody who is still living, who is extremely wellknown and whom I personally admire and have no wish to persecute, particularly at his age. He has denied it and consistently denies it, but I am sorry to say I have found otherwise."

He emphatically denies any suggestion that Denning asked him not to reveal the

The duchess's disgrace

THE secrets of the duchess were laid bare in a four-year legal battle that transfixed the nation and became the costliest case the Scottish Bar had (Michael Harvey.

Ethel Margaret Whigham was born in 1912, the only daughter of a wealthy Scottish

industrialist. She was voted

came as famous as a film star, photographed by the press herever she went She first wed the American

golfer Charles Sweeney, but the marriage foundered after ten years. In 1951 she married the Duke of Argyll, chief of clan Campbell and hereditary Master of the Royal House-

deb of the year in 1930 and be-hold in Scotland. The union could not survive her taste for extramarital affairs, however.

In 1959 he read one of her diaries and, inflamed by its contents, ordered a locksmith to open her writing desk. Inside, found the photographs of the headless man. Wrapped around them were sheets of paper captioned Before, During, Oh! and Finished.

been launched only in America and had presumably been brought to Britain by the beadless man.

ceedings. The duchess refused meekly to accept her fate and counter-sued. The duke said he would name 88 men as his wife's lovers. In the end he cited four lovers - Baron Sigismund von Braun, a senior German diplomat: John Cohane, an American businessman: Peter Combe, former press officer at the Savoy hotel; and an unnamed man.

The duke was photo-graphed nude to prove he was not the headless man. Duncan Sandys, a former Tory

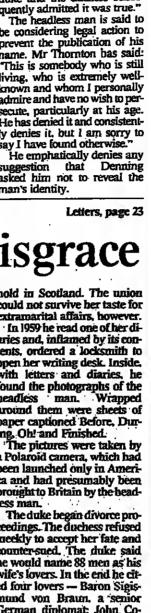
with letters and diaries, he The pictures were taken by a Polaroid camera, which had

In 1963 Lord Denning was working on the Profumo inquiry.

an who had ceased to be satisfied with normal relations and had started to indulge in disgusting sexual activities."

She remained part of Lou-don society, living for many years in the Grosvenor House Hotel and later in a nursing home in Pinlico, where she

4.65%



"She was a highly sexed womminister, was ruled out because a war wound had left him with scarred legs that were easy to identify. Eventually the judge, Lord Wheatley, granted the duke a divorce on the ground of the duchess's adultery with Mr Combe. In a devastating 65,000-word judgment, the judge said of the duchess: died in 1993, aged 80.



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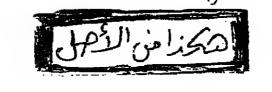
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amid

Cinton joins call to break

Lawyer buried amid anger

and accusation ROSEMARY NELSON, the murdered human rights lawyer, was buried yesterday after a funeral in Lurgan, Co Armagh, that doubled as a massive demonstration of national-

ist anger and solidarity.

The local priest demanded an independent inquiry into Mrs Nelson's death as be addressed thousands of mourners convinced that the police colluded with the loyalist killers of a woman they regarded

as their champion.

The Bishop of Dromore, Dr
Prancis Brooks, used his funeral address to beg for calm at a
time of rapidly rising tension
in Northern Ireland, Overnight riots near by in Portadown had left 38 police officers and four others slightly injured. A bus was set on fire in the town's Garvaghy Road yesterday evening and the securi-ty forces were prepared for more trouble last night.
Mary McAleese, the Irish

President, David Andrews, Ireland's Foreign Minister, and Paul Murphy, Northern Ire-land's Political Development Minister, attended the funeral. At least three Sinn Fein and nationalist SDLP politicians flew back early from the St Patrick's Day celebrations in

Washington to attend.
The English lawyer Gareth
Pierce, who has defended several prominent republicans including the Birmingham Six. was there and many legal practices and courts across the province closed out of respect

for the murdered solicitor.

One of Mrs Nelson's clients. Brendan McKenna, leader of the nationalist residents of Garvaghy Road, arrived with



The funeral of Rosemary Nelson was a huge show

man rights and said her mur der "struck at the very heart of

the legal and justice process " It was "absolutely necessary that an independent inquiry be set

an independent inquiry be set up to investigate the circumstan-ces surrounding the appalling death of Rosemary Nelson.". Bishop Brooks begged for calm. "Violent reactions serve

only to widen and deepen mis-

ery and injustice." As David Trimble and Gerry Adams

flew back from Washington

with just two weeks left for breaking the deadlock over IRA disarmament, the bishop said everyone's attention had

to be focused on the struggling

Mrs Nelson's sons, Christo-pher, 13, and Gavin, 11, also

spoke briefly at the funeral service. We her family know

her as the best mother, wife,

daughter and sister anyone

could ever have." Gavin said.

peace process.

of nationalist solidarity, writes Martin Fletcher

an eyepatch conceating an injury inflicted by a police officer during the previous night's trouble. The RUC had intervened to separate crowds of nationalists and loyalists outside. an Orange hall and were at-tacked with stones and petrol

Mrs Nelson's husband. Paul, and her three weeping children led the huge funeral cortege from their home on the edge of Lurgan to St Peter's church. The police remained well out of sight.

They passed the spot where the bomb exploded under Mrs Nelson's BMW moments after she had left for work on Monday and the Tarraghmore primary school, where her daughter. Sarah. 8, was playing when she heard the explosion. The 200 children of the school lined the route and crossed themselves before the hearse.

Black flags and Irish tricolours hung from lampposts. Freshly painted graffiti on the walls proclaimed: "RUC -Armed Wing of Unionism and Disband the RUC". There is no evidence to suggest that the RUC colluded with loyalist bombers but the belief has taken firm root among nationalists and the mood of the mourners was one of smoul-

She stood up for Catholics and nationalists and this is what happened to her. They keep putting down people like her who stand up for our rights," one woman mourner said. "We're sick of it. You think peace is coming and then this happens," another less they disarm the RUC first, a taxi driver said.

Father Kieran McPartlan. the local priest, called Mrs Nel-

Clinton joins call to break Ulster deadlock

THE leaders of Britain, America and Ireland issued an exraordinary joint statement manded the deadlock over IRA disarmament be overcome to secure the implemen-tation of the Good Friday peace accord by the anniversary of its signing next month.

The statement came as Northern Ireland's leaders left Washington as entrenched as ever over the crucial issue. The agreement endorsed by the people last May must be implemented in all its aspects and the remaining difficulties must be resolved ... that is what the people want and we must not fail them." Tony Blair, President Cinton and Bertie Ahern declared.

"More courage will be needed. But we are nearly there. The prize is very great indeed

0200 004 567

and it is now in sight. We have come too far to go back now. Let us finish the task between now and Good Friday.

After their meetings with Mr Clinton and another meeting with each other, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president flew home with no agreement on how the of decommissioning might be resolved. The Union-ists remain adamant that the IRA must start disarming before Sinn Fein can be admitted

to government. Gerry Adams insists that is impossible. "The mood of my meeting with Gerry Adams was very se-rious," said Mr. Trimble. While nothing was resolved, it was a good talk. I was glad to see that Adams this time was seriously thinking about the issue of decommissioning, rather than just repeating his old script. I feel quite optimistic that, in the end, we will overcome this difficulty, because there really is no alternative. He called the IRA's gradual disarmament and dissolution "a question now not of whether, but when."

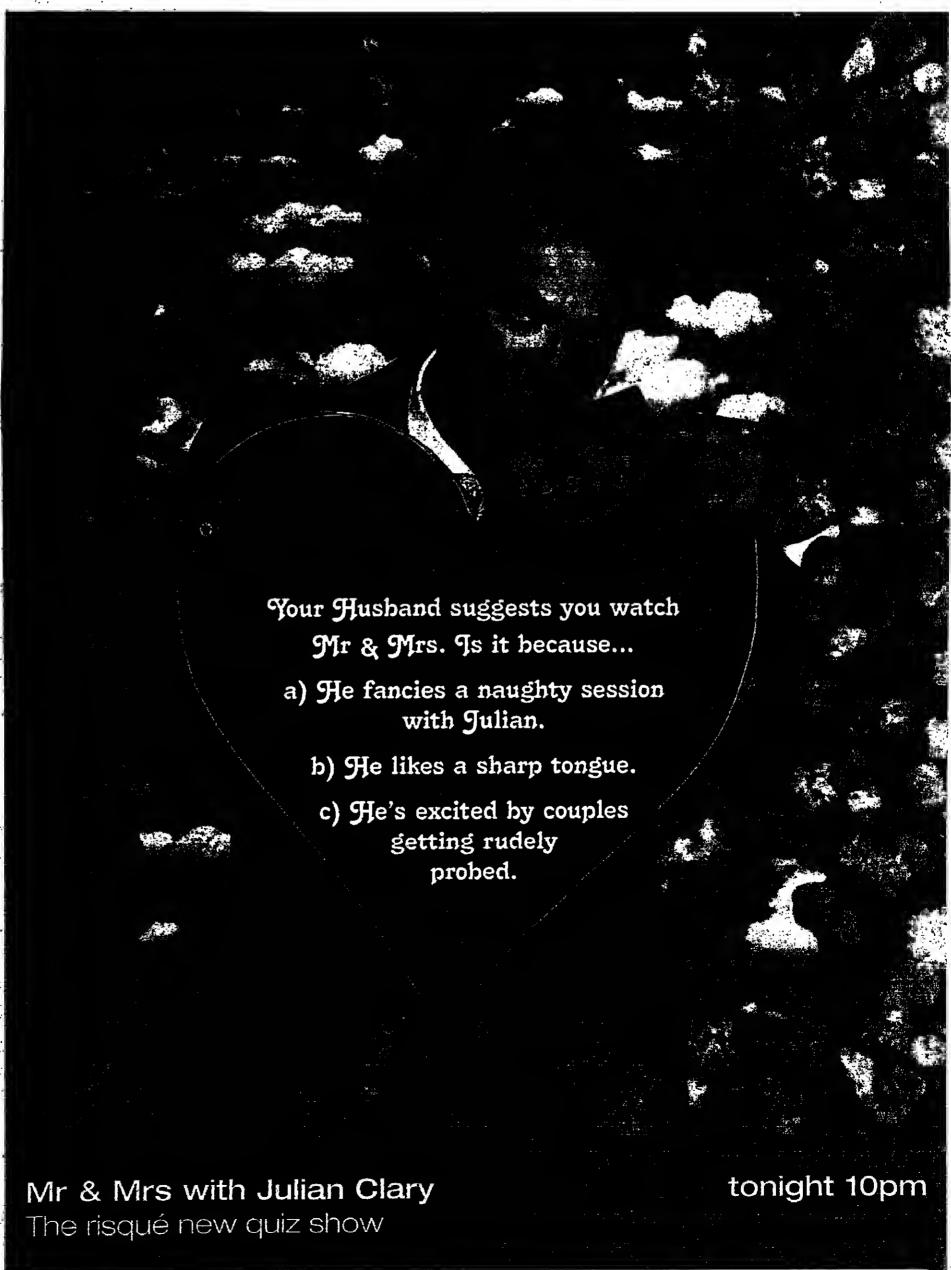
Mr Adams, while calling the meeting "cordial", said that Mr Trimble was being unreasonable. "I have to say that he shows no evidence whatsoever of changing his position and he is making demands on me that I cannot deliver. "

Mr Adams said that Mr Trimble had demanded that the IRA stage an "event" at which members would dis-play weapons and explosives that they were handing over.

He urged Mr Trimble to meet nationalists in Portadown in a bid to avoid another tense Orange Order standoff in Drumcree, Mr Trimbie suggested while in Washington that he would meet the Garvaghy Road residents coalition, who are part of his conresult in a positive outcome."



Rosemary Nelson's children, Christopher, Sarah and Gavin, follow their mother's coffin with their father, Paul, at the funeral in Lurgan vesterday



tv gets better



fine him to a wheelchair.

The judge, Lord Osborne, accepted that it was the design of the kerb that chiefly caused stumble. A roads authority ought to foresee that pedestri-ans might be under the influ-ence of drink, the judge said. bility for the road, by £250,000 because of Mr Kemp's contributory negligence.

A man accused of murdering seven people in an arson attack was remanded in custody by Stratford Magistrates' Court, East London. An order was made banning identification of the man, from East London,

Library reopens

The manuscripts, rare books and music reading rooms ar the British Library are to reopen on Mondays. Wednes-days, Thursdays and Fridays. even though industrial action by book delivery staff contin-ues. The strike, over pay and working conditions, began on March 8.

Noye appeals

An appeal by Kenneth Noye against extradition from Spain for questioning over the M25 "road rage" murder of Stephen Cameron in May 1996 has gone before 12 judges in Madrid. They are expected to take at least a week to rule on his claims of illegal identification and media prejudice.

Lateral thinking

The first bilateral creatures with a left and right side, rather than being round - were flatworms that lived 500 million years ago, a Spanish team reports in Science. By studying genetic variation, they concluded that Acoela emerged before the great flowering of life in the Cambrian explosion

Three unemployed friends turned away from a nightclub in York because they were dressed in T-shirts nipped into a late-night store to buy a cheap shirt each. While there. Sam McKee, 27, Owen Buckle, 20, and Simon Allen, 18. bought a scratchcard and woo

CORRECTION

any embarrassment caused.

Drinker who fell gets £½m

A man who tripped over a kerb after drinking at a social club was awarded £500,000 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. Vincent Kemp, 36, fell into the path of a van, receiving fractures to the skull and spine that con-

Mr Kemp, of Rosyth, Fife, to However, he reduced the original claim against the Scottish Secretary, who has responsi-

Arson remand

safe leisure alternatives for

young people, especially teen-agers, outside the home."

Girls were less likely to be

interested in computers, and only half as likely as boys to

have their own PCs. Computer

games and software were

more often related to sport, a

mainly male interest, than the

soap operas or narratives girls

"The relative lack of girl-

friendly, communication-orientated or narrative-based

software is a cause for con-

Working-class families were less likely to have computers

at home, but, if they did, they

were more likely to be in the

child's room because parents

"European comparisons suggest that Britain leads for

screen entertainment culture, but lags behind for IT," the study said.

cern," it said.

did not use them.

for fear of public disorder. Four generations died in the fire in Chingford on March 6.

Police 1

Warm

Box of 6

aposed

g girls

Lucky clubbers

In an article (January 17) we wrongly attributed to George Oldham, director of Newcas, tie's Centre for the Urban En vironment, the opinion that architects are "keepers of the keys, not charitable do-gooders". We are happy to make clear that this is oot Mr Oldham's view, and apologise for



Then and now: children out playing marbles on a street in Leeds, and a child watching television in an age when reading a book is said to be boring, old-fashioned, frustrating and too much of an effort

Prisoners in their bedrooms

CHILDREN are becoming Carol Midgley reports on a study that says media-obsessed children should get out more prisoners of a "bedroom culture" because their parents fear for their safety outside, according to a new study.

They are giving their chil-dren more televisions, videos. computers and CD players to said their children spent very use in their bedrooms to compensate for their restricted lifelittle or none of their leisure styles, the London School of time outside the home. Drugs and crime were cited as their Economics report says. As a result, books are having an increasingly smaller role in children's lives. They biggest worries. There was a "stark contrast" between their perception of the environment prefer to use CD-Roms and now and when they were the Internet as their sources

for information, and television

for their narrative. According

to the study, books are regard-

ed as "boring, old-fashioned,

frustrating and requiring too

ronment at home." The report says that young

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numbers of children are pro-

vided with a rich media envi-

much effort. Books are not trendy: they are the sort of people do not, in general, feel isolated in their bedrooms. thing your parents approve of," it says. They share their "media lives" with friends and conduct "pen-Almost a third of parents pal" relationships over the

Internet. Nor could they be termed media addicts. Only t per cent of children could be termed heavy users of television or computer games, watching a "worrying" seven hours a day.
Sonia Livingstone, head of the team, which claims to have young. "Possibly by way of compensation. increasing

conducted the most comprehensive survey of media use by children for 40 years, said: "Our research does not sup-port moral panies about children addicted to computer games or mindless entertainment on television, but children need to be screen-wise as well as book-wise. They are developing new skills and need support in this."

Just over two thirds of young people have televisions in their rooms. Among chil-dren aged six to seven, half

About half of young people have personal computers at home, and a third have television-linked games machines in their bedrooms. "Bedtime might be better termed 'bedroom time', for it marks the

end of the family day, rather than the start of sleep," said the study, which was funded by the Advertising Associa-tion, the BBC, BT, the Broadcasting Standards Commis-sion, ITV and several European bodies. More than 1,300 children

filled in questionnaires, 32 farnilies gave detailed interviews. and 27 focus groups with young people aged six to 17 provided researchers with infor-mation about their television, computer, video, audio and book use.

The study found that British children were much more like-

GUARANTEES

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Three quarters of those aged 12 to 14 and four fifths of those aged 15 to 17 said that there was not enough for them to do outside. This was double the number who complained of similar problems in most

terparts to be watching televi-

sion or playing computer

games and spent an average

five hours a day on media use.

other European countries.

Watching television was the most popular leisure activity. with an average 21/2 hours a day spent in front of the screen. Children said that watching television was "what you do when you are bored and have

nothing better to do".

The study said: "The message from children and their parents to policy-makers is clear: improve the provisioo of

> Speaking on the telephone is THE NINETIES a major part of Chice Barnes's

wittes). Like millions of teeringers, she is gripped by the need for long evening discussions with the friends she spends all day: with at school. Chine, 15, from Holland Park, West London, divides her time between the computer, the television and the phone, but feels her existence is anything but solitary. "I get home from school at about 5,45pm, watch Neighbours and

Home and Away, then do my homework until supper," she said.
Homework is largely done on her computer, which is about to
be connected to the internet. "After supper I finish my to the connected to the internet. After supper lating my from evolving what's on TV. Til play on the computer, my PlayStation or listen to music. On weekdays I hardly ever go out, but I have quite a sociable life. I have school all day with my hierast and I speak on the phone a lot.

Her bedroom, however, is currently a bause for , constemation. "It was done when I was eight so I really hate it," she said. "I want it to be my own personal space." But it does have a hi-fi system and the phone extension is outside her bedroom door. A television, however, has been benned: "I want :

THE FIFTIES

one, but would never come out of my room."

They were the young ones:--THE FIFTIES cycling gaily down traffic-free streets, jiving at the local hop or gazing at their screen idol on a poster. The fifties teerager, if nostalgia is to be believed, lived in a haloyon era and indulged .

n wholesome pursuits. : + One browse through The Winter Book for Girls contigns this view. With chapters on First Steps in Ballroom Dancing, How to-Make a Raffia Lampshade and Puppetry as a Hobby, this is the book for young people with time on their hands. The book advises, in a section on Restyle Your Bedroom to Suit Yourself. "To have your own room is never so important as in the instance of Your the teenage girl who is becoming a personality in her own right." Diagrams show a room bursting with climbing plants, neat-ly ordered cubogrds and books propped up with a wireless. Noreen Marshall, of the Museum of Childhood, said: "This

was a transition period from the early 20th century, when people made entertainment at home, like playing cards or singing together. It was considered safe, but then the media was not omnipresent. People think of this mythical time when no one got attacked and there was no child abuse, but that's not true. It was simply not publicised.











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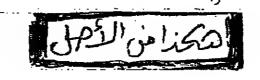
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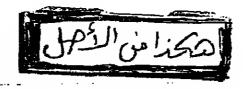
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Rod Hull falls to death while adjusting aerial

ROD HULL, the creator of the pupper Emu, has died in a fall while trying to adjust his relevision aerial.

He fell from a ladder at his

cottage at Winchelsea, East Sussex, on Wednesday night while trying to get a better picture during the football match between Manchester

United and Inter Milan.

He will, perhaps, be best remembered for seriously flustering Michael Parkinson in the 1970s when he attacked the chatshow host with the emu. Mr Parkinson said yesterday: Tam very sad to hear of Rod's death. He was a charming, intelligent and sensitive man quite unlike the emu.

"Emu was the dark side of his personality, and very funny, provided it was not on top of you. He was a gentle man and an endearing companion. We will sorely miss him."

The death of the 63-year-old entertainer, who shared the cottage with his son Oliver, 19, was confirmed by his agent, Laurie Mansfield, who said yesterday: "We are not certain Man Utd reception was poor, writes Richard Duce

what happened but we know comeback. "He was one of the that he was watching the foot-ball. The picture was bad and nicest men that I ever met. I've never known him to do a nasty he went up on to the roof to adjust the aerial and fell off." thing."

Mr Hull, who was born in

It was Mr Hull's son who Kent, moved to Australia be-fore returning to Britain in raised the alarm. His father was declared dead at Conquest Hospital in Hastings.

Mr Mansfield said that Mr 1970. He enjoyed great success with his emu act until the early 1980s. He decided on a stage Hull had recently been to Loncareer as the best way of cur-ing a boyhood stammer. He had ambitious plans to

renovate Restoration House, the former retreat of Charles 11

Michael Parkinson falls victim to the trascible Emu on his chat show in the 1970s

in Rochester, as his family home. However, the purchase of the property in 1991 coincid-ed with a decline in his popularity. The venture was aban-

bankrupt. It meant he could no longer afford to put his two sons through private school. The financial problems led to the break-up of his mar-riage to Cher, his second wife. The couple, who had three children, returned to Australia

doned and he declared himself

five years ago but the mar-

returned to England. He moved into his two-bedroom conage, rented from the Na-tional Trust, five years ago. At the Queen's Head pub in

nearby lcklesham, where he often had a pint and a game of boules, Martin Harris, the landlord, said: "He was a kind, gentle and generous man. He was involved with the community, who are dis-tressed at what has happened. "Despite his TV image he was a shy man who kept a low

profile. That emu never made an appearance at my pub." In a recent interview Mr

Hull, who made the children's programmes Grottbags and the Pink Windmill in the 1980s, was critical of television producers, saying: "They don't want to spend any money to create what children want." Philip Davidson, Mr Hull's son-in-law, said: "He lived crazy and died crazy. He liked to live life to the full.



Boy of 6 'exposed himself to girls'

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BOY of six is being kept under close supervision at school after being accused of "sexually inappropriate behaviour" with female classmates.

Some parents at the school in Enfield, North London, reportedly demanded that the boy should be expelled after he allegedly exposed himself.

However, teaching unions yesterday backed the school and the local education authority, who decided he should be allowed to remain. The school has put an extra teacher on duty during break times to keep the boy under observation, and a spokesman for the council said there had been no .

repeat of the incidents. ty said: The family concerned has been very co-operative by attending meetings and taking the child home at lunch times. The school is providing additional support and supervision throughout the school day."

A spokesman for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said they supported the school's action. These sort of incidents are very rare. We make a clear distinction between this and violent behav-

Police give warning of serial rapist

don to talk about summer plans, which included taking

Emu on the road again and the possibility of a television.

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

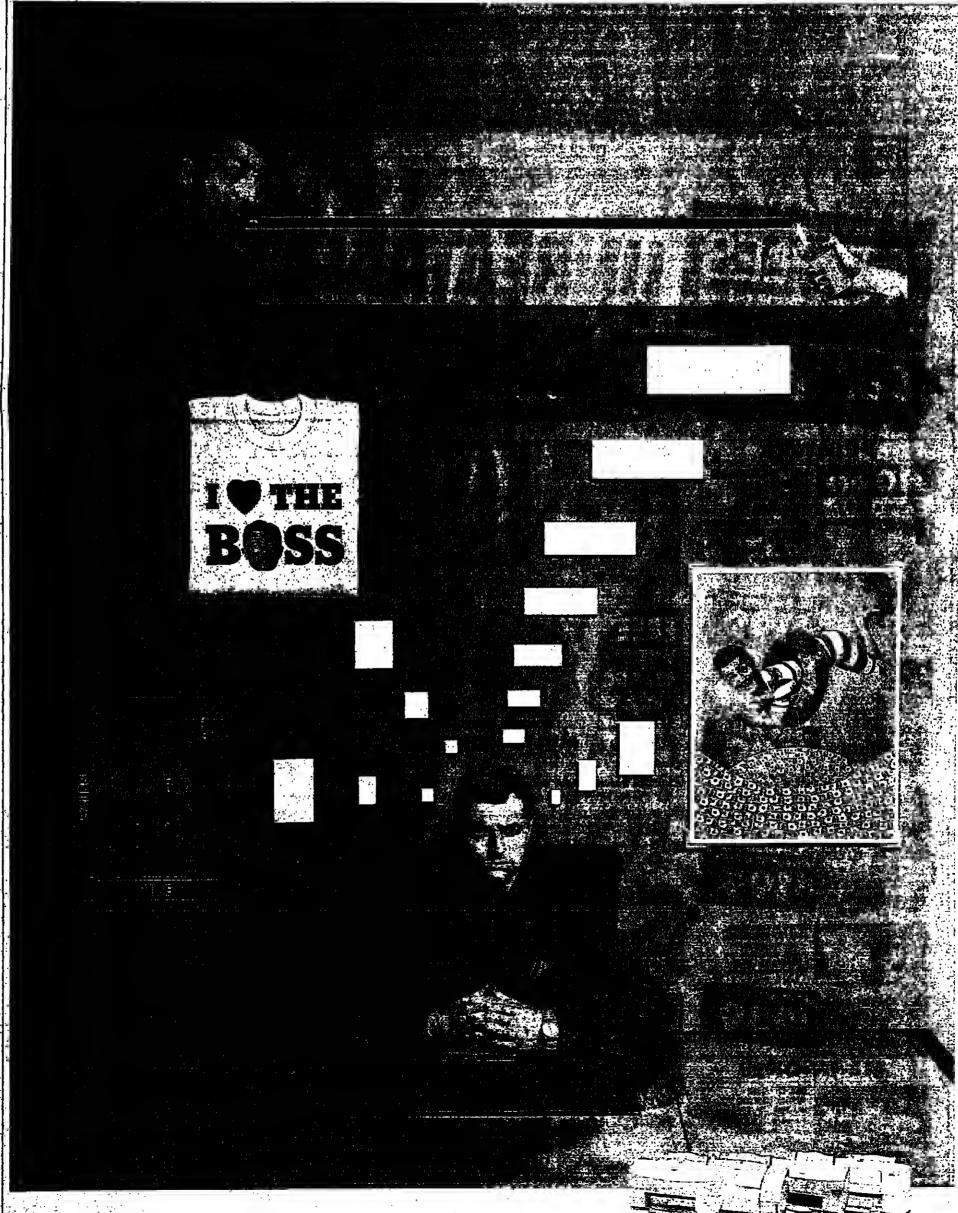
POLICE have warned women not to walk alone at night in a city where a serial rapist has struck at least three times. -

One hundred officers in Southampton are involved in a hunt for the man, who police say is an active, violent, predatory rapist and they fear that he could kill his next victim. Hampshire Police know he has struck three times in the past two years in the city and are linking him to a fourth rape and other sex offences, including an attack on a 14-year-

A breakthrough in the bunt came when DNA tests estabhished clear evidence that the. rapes were carried out by the L POLICE D out DNA tests on 1,000 men aged between 16 and 35.

Andy Stewart said: "There has been a serious escalation in the violence this man has used and he is an extremely dangerous person. Ultimately we fear he may murder someone."

The rapist, described as white and aged between 22 and 24, is between 6ft and 6ft 4in tall, of slim to medium build with short, tidy, light



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Blair promises to end child poverty within 20 years

TONY BLAIR yesterday said that he wanted to make the welfare state as popular as the NHS as he pledged to wipe out child poverty in Britain

Delivering the Beveridge Lecture at Toynbee Hall in London, the Prime Minister said that public confidence in the welfare state had to be restored in order to convince taxpayers that welfare spending

was a good thing.
However, welfare campaigners accused him of being under-ambitious and called on him to abandon tax cuts and spend more money on alleviating hardship. Opposition parties attacked Mr Blair for cynicism and failing to come up with solutions

The only road to a popular welfare state is radical welfare reform," Mr Blair said. Part of the way to achieve this was through focusing on children and helping families to get above the breadline, he suggested. Spending on children would rise by more than £6 billion this Parliament while plans announced by Gordon Brown would lift 700,000 children out of poverty in the same period.

"Poverty should not be a birthright. Being poor should not be a life sentence. We need to break the cycle of disadvantage so that children born into poverty are not condemned to social exclusion and deprivation." Mr Blair said.

And I will set out our histor-

But campaigners say Britain could afford to wipe it out in half the

> time, reports Jill Sherman

ic aim that ours is the first gen-eration to end child poverty for ever, and it will take a genera-tion. It is a 20-year mission but I believe it can be done if we reform the welfare state and build it around the needs of families and children," he

The levels of child deprivation were frightening with al-most one in three children in Britain living in poverty and poor children more likely to have trouble with education. the police and teenage preg-nancy. Increased child benefit, the working families tax credit, improved maternity and paternity rights, the minimum wage and school improve-ments would help all children, not just the poorest.

However, the Child Poverty Action Group said he should have set a target of ten years and called for an explicit commitment to reducing inequality. "The Government can and should be more ambitious." said Martin Barnes of the action group, "A child born into

and starting their own family by the time the target date of 2019 is reached. We are a very wealthy nation. We can afford to end child poverty in ten years, not 20."

The organisation called on the Government to abandon the planned lp income tax cut and instead improve social security benefits for families. Child benefit should be increased further and the Government should remove the upper earnings limit on national contributions. which could raise £3.5 billion to invest in employment and improved public services.

The Tories accused the Prime Minister of a cynical at-tempt to deflect attention from Labour's failure to meet its original pledges on welfare reform. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secre-tary, said: "By introducing a range of anti-family, anti-mar-riage policies, the Government is going in completely the wrong direction to alleviate child poverty."

The Liberal Democrats said the Mr Blair was right to tack-le child poverty but that 20 years too long.

Mr Blair said his Govern-

ment had already cut by almost I per cent a year the real growth of social security spending, and spent £5 billion less than the last administration had planned for. He praised William, later

Lord, Beveridge, the Liberal



Tony Blair meeting John Profumo, left, president of Toynbee Hall, and Lord Butler before his speech there yesterday

economist whose 1942 Report on Social Insurance and Al-lied Services paved the way for welfare state. Mr Blair said it was then associated with progress and achievement, giving people their first pension, a decent home and

peace of mind if unemployed. Mr Blair was welcomed to Toynbee Hall by John Profu-mo, its president and former War Secretary, and Lord Butler of Brockwell, the Master of University College, Oxford, and former Cabinet Secretary. The lecture was the first in a series marking the 750th anniversary of University College.

Leading article, page 23

CHANGING DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY

cantly over the last 60 years from having barely enough to eat to having enough to buy bige-reties and a secondhand television. But relative poverty is still on the rise, and the gap between

rich and poor has widened since 1979.

The Government's definition of poverty is helf the average household income. A single adult is living in poverty if he or she has an income, after housing costs, of at most £73.50 a week. A couple with no children are in poverty it they earn £133.50 a week while a couple with three children would be on £229

On these figures, accepted by the Child Fover ly Action Group and the Low Pay Unit, more than 14 million people are in poverty, compared with 5 million in 1979. About 4.6 million children are in these households, which Gordon Brown

says he will reduce by 700,000 this Parliament. in 1942 Beveridge stated that "in considering the minimum income needed by persons of working age for subsistence during the interrup-tion of earnings, it is sufficient to take into account food, clothing, tuet, light and household sundries, and rept.

But two decades earlier Joseph Howntree, who pioneered work to alleviate poverty, defined it thus: "A family living on the scale allowed for must never spend a penny on railway fare or omnibus . .. They must never purchase a halfpenny newspaper or spend a penny to buy a ticket for a popular concert. They must write no letters to absent children, for they cannot afford to pay the postage. They must never contribute anything to their church or chapel, or give any help to a neighbour which costs them money."

Thatcher challenger saddles up again

By JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR ANTHONY MEYER, the "stalking-horse" MP who famously but unsuccessfully challenged Margaret Thatcher for the Tory leadership, has joined the breakaway Pro-Euro Conservative Party.
He said the time had come

for pro-European Tories to take a stand against the party's Eurosceptic drift. Sir Anthony, who left Parliament in 1992, will campaign and make speeches. But, now 78, he will not stand as a candidate.

His leadership challenge to Mrs Thatcher in November 1989, although widely ridiculed, secured 33 votes and an almost equal number of ab-stentions. It severely embarrassed the Prime Minister and paved the way for Michael Heseltine's challenge in 1990. A Tory spokesman said: "The

stalking horse has finally ended up in the knackers' yard.



Queen to open Scots parliament 'in mufti'

SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

A CONSTITUTIONAL row broke yesterday after it emerged that the Queen is to wear everyday clothes to open the Scottish parliament.

Her proposed low-key role in the ceremonial opening on July I follows advice from government ministers that the day should be a civic celebration for ordinary people, relatively free from pomp.

She is now unlikely to wear

the historic robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, nor is she likely to be drawn in the Scottisb State Coach.

Bernard Crick, Professor Emeritus of Politics at the University of London, gave warning that a civic event would amount to surrendering to nationalists who want unionist sentiments to be suppressed.

The decision follows talks between Scottish Office and Buckingham Palace officials. It rekindled memories of the outrage over the Queen's decision to wear ordinary clothes and carry a handbag during ber first Scottish visit after her coronation in 1953.

Cook forestalls 'meddling' by new assemblies

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ROBIN COOK has moved to forestall the devolved national assemblies from meddling in foreign policy and going on junkets around the world.

The Foreign Secretary has also insisted on new ground rules between Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the UK continues to speak with one voice in Europe. He and Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, are anxious to prevent "territorial wars" over business and investment, and to control regional inducements

to attract new industry. They anticipate the assem-blies establishing "national" of-fices in Brussels to promote their administrations but they do not want freelance operations elsewhere. Even if there are conflicts over forestry, fish-

eries, or agriculture, the Government is adamant that it will negotiate in Europe for the national interest only. A new structure of joint ministerial committees is to be set up to decide the UK line in advance of key negotiations.

There is no question of Brit-

the EU to take account of a regional interest, although as sembly politicians may join Cabinet ministers at meetings

A concordat to be signed by the regional leaders in May will stipulate that they toe the overall government line with no underhand lobbying that might harm UK interests.

A new Foreign Office unit will liaise with the Scottish parliament and Northern Ireland and Welsh assemblies and help to organise foreign travel. Embassies will be put at the disposal of regional leaders but it is clear Mr Cook does not want them to be used as hotels or for his ambassadors' time to be wasted on petty matters. The unit would also act as "a lightning conductor" if an overseas Government tired of constant visits from the administrations. Officials would block follow-up trips.

The unit will also liaise with governments that wish to visit the new administrations. The Foreign Office is anticipating a glut of requests to visit Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, with many countries setting ain splitting its block vote in up consulate offices there.



Caution urge CJD deaths

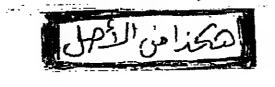
grow w

Maggots clean

in wound care







Mothers insist on the right to refuse jabs

JACKIE FLETCHER founded a support group called Jabs — Justice Awareness Bason, Robert, became ill and developed autism after being giv-

en the triple vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella. "Robert was developing per-fectly at the time of the vaccination," she said. "From then on his life changed. He has had umpteen convulsions and fits. We are not anti-vaccine. but we are anti-damage. We think parents should understand that vaccines are not compulsory and they do have a choice."

More than 1,400 families have joined a claim for damages against the drugs companies that have manufactured

the vaccines since 1988.
But Jane Mulholland, whose son Roger was born with congenital rubella syndrome 12 years ago, is dismayed that some parents are choosing not to have their chil-"I don't think people who

blind and deaf, with brain damage and multiple heart defects." Doctors working in public bealth say that although a small oumber of children are victims in the war against dissaved and chronic illnesses prevented by immunisation

are concerned about the

MMR vaccine know quite how devastating the rubella virus can be for the unborn child," she said. "My son has

been to hell and back since he

was born 12 years ago and the

family has been there with

him. He was born completely

are immensely greater. Vaccination has eradicated smallpox and almost wiped out polio. Rubella was disappearing until fears arose about the vaccine. To control rubella, more than 85 per cent of the population needs to be immunised for a decade or more. If immunisation drops below that level for any length

Rubella fears grow with fall in vaccination

THERE is a growing danger of an epidemic of babies being born with rubelia because the proportion of infants being immunised against the disease has been falling for more than

A study published in the British Medical Journal today shows that the number of mothers giving birth to chil-dren with German measles has started to rise, as has the number of women obtaining an abortion because of exposure to the infection during

The authors, from the Insti-tute of Child Health in London, say that public anxiety about the safety of the vaccine, which also protects against measles and mumps, is re-sponsible for the decline. The largest fall occurred at the start of last year after publication of a report suggesting a possible link between the tri-

ple vaccination and autism. That link has since been discounted by an independent group of experts, but the 6 per cent drop in immunisations, following publication of the reort, has not been reversed. he number of children vaccinated by the time they are 16 months old has fallen from 83



The rubella virus: spread in airborne droplets

THE unusually high number

of deaths before Christmas

from the human version of

"mad cow" disease does not mean that a drastic epidemic

of the illness is on the way, ac-

in the journal, reports that the number of deaths from the ill-

ness jumped to nine in the last quarter of 1998 after a total of

six deaths in the previous nine

months and 23 in the previous

The letter says that the fig-ures for one quarter need to be

interpreted with caution, but

do tend to strengthen the evi-

dence that there is increasing

deaths in the last quarter of 1998 was unusual, we do not

know if this level of mortality will be sustained," the letter

says. The number of CJD deaths during the coming years will provide a clearer in-

dication of whether the apparent increase in deaths towards

the end of 1998 was a chance

observation or marks a

change in the underlying mnr-

The journal says in a lead-ing article that the "disquiet-

ing" increase in the death rate

had been public knowledge for the past two months but no-

topic that since the furore of

ed into political point-scor-

o seems to have degenerat-

body seemed to notice. Perhaps scientists, doctors and journalists are nred of a

"Although the number of

murtality from the disease.

A letter from the Creuzfeldt-Jakoh Disease Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, published

cording to The Lancet.

Caution urged

over rise in

CITY donath

epidemic among babies could

cidence of cases recorded in the spring of 1996 was concen-

ception that the disease was

dangerous only to women.

The infection spreads easily

from person to person in air-borne droplets, so an increased

incidence among young men puts women at risk.

the number of babies with congenital rubella who had typi-cal heart or eye defects had doubled from 40 per cent to 80

per cent since 1991.
"If high uptake is not maintained, rubella could once

again circulate among young

children, the report says. "Women and health profes-

sionals must be aware of the

potentially devastating effects

of rubella infection."

The authors also found that

have devastating effects, reports Ian Murray

per cent to 77 per cent. Before the rubella vaccine was introduced for schoolgirls in 1970, up to 300 babies a year were born in England and Wales with congenital defects associated with the disease. Those include deafness, heart disease, mental handicap, eye disorders, cerebral palsy and bone abnormalities. About a fifth of the babies will die in infancy.

Vaccinations, even though they do not give 100 per cent protection, had an immediate impact. The number of babies born with defects in 1971-75 averaged 48 and there were 742

In 1988 the figures started to fall again with the introduction of the triple vaccination for all children under two. By 1991-95 the average number of cases was just four births and nine terminations. A high proportion of those cases was among women who were either immigrants or who had acquired the infection while

When the decline in vaccinaions began, the figures began to rise again and the number of women who became infected in Britain overtook the number of cases among immigrants. In 1996 there were 12 children born with the infec-tion and a similar number of

ing," it says, "The outlook

from many aspects is grim. In

the UK the BSE inquiry will almost certainly publish an ano-

dyne report replete with hand-

wringing but conclude no one

is to blame. Worldwide, ani-

mal feeding practices will con-

tinue to be driven by the pros pect of quick profit and not by

considerations of sound ani-

that clinicians have to be highly suspicious in future about

unusual diseases and must

support a strict surveillance of

the first time reproduced in a

test tube the changes that lead

to "mad cow" disease and CJD

(Nigel Hawkes writes). CJD and sintilar diseases

are caused by the prion pro-

tein - a long string of amino

acids linked together - fold-

ing up into a different shape. All proteins fold in characteris-

ne ways that determine their properties in the body but in the case of prinns a misfolded

A team led by Professor

Juhn Collinge, of the Imperial

College School of Medicine,

has shown that breaking a sin-gle bond in the prion protein

molecule is enough to trigger

The discovery could lead to better tests for CJD and ulti-

mately to drugs able to treat the disease. Isolating the

change opened up many new

research directions for under-standing BSE and CJD. Profes-

sor Collinge said.

form can appear.

them when they occur. ☐ British scientists have for

The lesson to be learnt is

mai husbandry."



Jackie Fletcher blames the vaccination for the disabilities of six-year-old Robert

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Maggots clean up in wound care

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

INFECTED wounds are increasingly being treated with sterile maggots of the common greenbottle fly to destroy bacteria that have become resistant lo antibiotics.

The biosurgical research unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, South Wales, is the only supplier of the larvae in Britain. They cost £54 for a pot of 150; so far more than 5,000 pots have

They are cost-effective because they both kill the bacteria and clean the wound." Steve Thomas, director of the unit, said. They are only available privately, but they sbould be made available on prescriptioo because they would save the NHS a great deal of money. We have cured patients in days who have

Writing in the British Medical Journal today, he says that the maggots are useful in the treatment of all types of

been in hospital on antibiotics

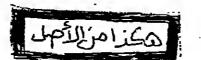
(That's alright, we've got a lot of answers.)

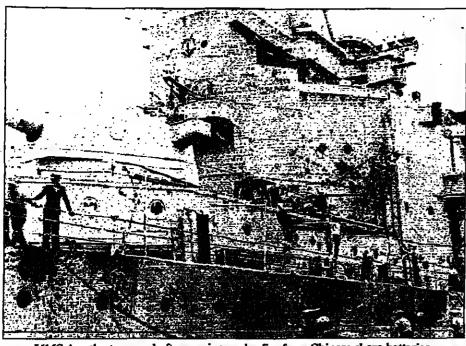
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HMS Amethyst, scarred after coming under fire from Chinese shore batteries

Old foes salute frigate's escape from Yangtze

THE courageous exploit of HMS Amethyst, the frigate which got caught up in China's civil war between the Communists and Nationalists in 1949 while steaming down the Yangtze River, remains one of the most heroic events

of Royal Navy history. Her ambush by Communist guns, the loss of 17 of the crew members, including the captain, and her subsequent dash for freedom down the Yangtze after three months at anchor while the war raged around them, have never been for-

Yesterday's wreath-laying in the Yangtze by Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, along with a senior Chinese admiral, served to show that nearly 50 years after the event, the memories of it still linger for both British and Chinese.

It was on April 19, 1949 that the i 490-tonne frigate, with a complement of 192 officers and men commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bernard Skinner, was ordered to leave Shanghai and to sail 180 miles up the Yangtze River to Nanking, the seat of Chiang Kaishek's Nationalist GovernFifty years on, memories of a

dash to freedom live on, writes

Michael Evans

ment, to relieve the destroyer, HMS Consort, as guardship to the British Embassy.

The order came as the Chinese Communists north of the Yangtze River and the Nationalist forces to the south were engaged in bitter fighting. HMS Amethyst, engaged in a peaceful mission, came under fierce attack from the Communist shore batteries.

Lieutenant Commander Skinner was seriously injured and subsequently died. Three

LINKS

https://www.gapulat.com/cand/arm https:// The People's Liberation Army.

other Royal Navy warships, HMS Consort, HMS London and HMS Black Swan. steamed to the rescue but were also shelled, with serious loss

The crippled Amethyst ran aground on Rose Island but the crew managed to refloat her and proceeded a few miles upriver, first to an anchorage off Chang Sang Chau Island and later to the Ta Sha South Channel.

It was at this stage that 33-year-old Lieutenant Commander John Kerans, assistant naval attaché at the embassy in Nanking, arrived on the frigate to take over command.

There followed 100 days of negotiations with the Communists to let the frigate go. But every time the warship tried to move its moorings, it was fired on by shore-based artillery. Conditions deteriorated.

The men went on half-rations and there was a plague of rats against which the ship's cat. Simon, fought daily battles. Al-though the world had been outraged by the fate of the Amethyst, she remained trapped for so long that she had almost been forgotten by the public. However, the Admiralty

BRITISH WARSHIPS SHELLED ON YANGTZE

OVER 70 CASUALTIES REPORTED

The British sloop H.M.S. Amethyst was fired on by Communist field artificity while on her way up the Yangtze yesterday with supplies for the British Embassy at Manking. The destroyer H.M.S. Consort

was becoming increasingly worried about the shortage of er-in-Chief Far East Station, food and medical supplies on decided that escape by night was the only solution. It was a the frigate. The Chinese Communists were also showing no sign of giving the ship and its crew their freedom. Admiral desperate gamble. The Amethyst slipped her cable at 10.12pm on a Saturday night. on a river noted for being one

Sir Patrick Brind. Command- July 31, 1949. The frigate soon came under heavy artillery and machinegun fire from four shore batteries. The Amethyst overcame more than 140 miles of navigational hazards

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fore successfully reaching the

On learning of the escape, the naval authorities said: "The outstanding feature of

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with which it was planned and the determination with which it was conducted. The timing was a vital factor. The Ame-thyst hardly had enough speec to slip after dark and to pass the Woosung forts by dawn." The statement went on: "Having negotiated varying currents, sandbanks, and sharp turns during the

140-mile passage, she arrived with only nine tonnes of fuel re-The Amethyst had been held hostage by the Chinese Communists since April 20 and the crew had been on half-rations since the beginning of July. The first signal she sent on meeting up with HMS Consort read: "Have rejoined the

fleet south of Woosung. No damage or casualties. God Save the King." Lieutenant Commander Kerans was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and there were numerous other bravery awards for the crew. The ship returned to Plymouth to an ecstatic welcome. Lieutenant-Commander Kerans was -promoted to commander and retired in 1958, later becoming

a Tory MP. He died in 1985.





The 1949 report in The Times of the Amethyst's mission and Simon the cat, decorated for his battle with rats

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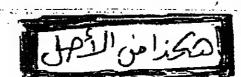
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Italian sex pests get the go-ahead — as long as they are in love



CH 19 1999

Mussolini: said ruling

ITALIAN feminists yesterday reacted with fury to a court ruling that a vances to his female staff cannot be charged with sexual harassment as long as he is "genuinely in love with the object of his affections". A court in Como dismissed a claim for compensation by a 34-year-old secretary who said she had been forced to leave the en-

The woman, who was unnamed. said she joined the firm as secretary to the managing director in November 1997, but six months later had complained to her trade

gineering firm she worked for be-

ause her boss's sexual advances

had become intolerable and had

Feminists decry 'molester's charter', writes Richard Owen in Rome

union that he was persistently "kissing me, hugging me and groping

When the harassment continued, she first went on five months' sick leave, and then resigned. She subsequently sued the company for failing to award her severance pay.

When challenged in court, the managing director - who was also not named — argued successfully that he had been in love with the woman and had "lost his head". The Como jodges accepted his

case, a decision dobbed vesterday a "charter for lecherous bosses" by the Italian press.

This is more reminiscent of the Middle Ages than the eve of the third millennium," said Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of Italy's Fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, and far-right MP for Naples, who campaigns for wom-

Last month Signora Mussolini was at the forefront of protests when the Italian appeal court ruled that a woman cannot be raped if

she is wearing tight denim jeans, since their removal requires "a measure of co-operation and consent". The court overturned the conviction of a driving instructor for raping an 18-year-old student who had worn jeans.

Signora Mussolini said the Como ruling was a step back-wards, and meant that "we might as well go back to the time when killing an adulterous wife was pardoned as a crime of honour".

She added: "Even a maniar can claim he has fallen in love. And in any case, how on earth can judges decide who is in love and who is

Grazia Villa, the lawyer for the secretary, said that her client had left the company because she "could not stand the atmosphere in the office any looger ... any woman will understand this."

The manager argued that the woman had "not resigned for any just or valid reason". Vittorio Anghileri, the presiding judge, said pol-ice had interviewed both the man and the woman. There had clearly been "a romantic relationship, at least on the part of the accused man, if not of the object of his desire", the judge said.

He noted that there were no witnesses to the alleged harassment, and no physical evidence nn the woman's body to show that she had

been molested. But Signora Villa said the court future cases of sexual harassment . In future a molester will be able to get way with anything as

long as he claims to be in love.
"We have now reached a situation where women not only have to be very careful about what they wear, they also have to worry about the feelings - or supposed feelings - of those who force their attentions on them."

She said it was difficult to prove cases of this kind because the law in Italy was still "a masculine in-

"We have to change the culture within which the law operates, and then change the law itself." Signora

Auditors fire off counterblast at defiant Santer

MEMBERS of the independent inquiry that brought down the European Commission yesterday attacked Jacques Santer, the Commission's President, and his team for rejecting their verdict and accused some commissioners of hindering their investigation.

Mr Santer, meanwhile, said he had no intention of leaving office for weeks and would attend next week's Berlin European Union summit despite the collective resignation of his team on Monday.

The Commission rejected arguments that the Treaty of Maastricht ruled out the reappointment of commissioners who had resigned. A strict reading of the treaty suggests this, but British officials insisted that outgoing commissioners could be immediately sent back to Brussels, as the Government plans to do with Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kin-

The Commission also confirmed yesterday that the out-

going members were entitled to about half their £130,000 salaries for each of the next three years to help them to make the transition to other careers. The commissioners also keep pension rights, equivalent to 4.5 per cent of their last salary multiplied by their number of years in office.

In the meantime, the commissioners continue to receive their full salaries as long as they remain in their caretaker roles. The arrangements, standard for departing top Eurocrats, have been attacked by Tony Blair and other Euro-pean politicians. Officials said, however, that there could be no question of depriving them of the golden handshakes or pensions, since the only grounds for such action would have been if they had

The counterblast from the outside auditors fuelled resentment inside the Brussels executive towards a second, more detailed inquiry into abuses by

its senior management that is due to start this month. Some officials said the public attacks from the senior legal figures reinforced their view that the socalled "wise persons" inquiry had been pursuing a political agenda.

Andre Middelhoek, the Dutchman who headed the inquiry, said the committee's conclusion on the Commission's failure of management had been amply justified by its investigation. Mr Santer's rejection of the verdict on Tuesday must have been due to emotion, he said. "I cannot otherwise explain how the Commission could have so misconstrued our conclusions." Mr Middelhoek, a former

chief of the EU's Court of Auditors, also said some of the commissioners interviewed by his team. had been unwilling to pass on information on their colleagues. The commissioners should look beyond their garden fences and take out the weeds in their neighbours' gar-



Gerhard Schröder, left, at a press conference in Madrid after meeting José Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, to discuss the Brussels crisis

dens," Mr Middelhoek told a

Dutch newspaper. Walter Van Gerven, the Bel-gian member of the team, also attacked Mr Santer's stand, but the sharpest riposte came from Pierre Lelong, the French member. If [Mr Santer] thinks that, then he has not understood anything that has happened," he said.

The broadside from the auditors stirred the ire of commissioners and senior officials, who see a political motive behind the auditors' actions. Some officials questioned Mr

Middelhock's neutrality, giv-en his battle with the Commission over its annual acocunts when he headed the EU financial watchdog. "Some people think he is trying to teach the Commission lessons that it didn't learn when he was with the Court of Auditors," said a Commission source.

Martine Reicherts, the spokeswoman for Mr Santer. denied rumours that senior officials were now planning to withhold co-operation with the inquiry when it starts its sec-

'Favourite' Prodi waits in wings

Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister who has emerged as front-runner for the presidency of the European Commission, yesterday laid down his conditions for accepting the job (Richard Owen writes).

He told friends and advisers that he was not prepared to serve as an interim President, and that he had to have a "full mandate" with the full backing of all European Un-

the Italian news agency, as saying that any head of the

He also indicated that he hoped to remain active in Italian politics, continuing to guide the small centre-left party he founded last month after being ousted as Italian leader. Bul a spokesman for the Commission was quoted by Ansa.

Commission could not at the same time "continue to be head of a poliocal party".

Signor Prodi, widely admired for his integrity and his skill in guiding Italy into the curo, said no offer had been made as yet. He was "one of several possible candidates".

Told that he was the favourite so far, he replied with a broad smile: "Only in the Ital-

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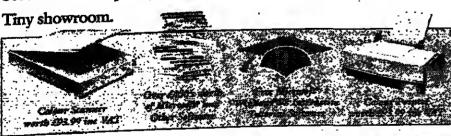
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Sex tape lays bare battle in the Kremlin

INSOMNIACS across Russia raised an eyebrow early yesterday as they watched grainy black and white footage of Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General and a married man, cavorting naked across their relevision screens with two

The decision to air the footage is thought to have been taken by President Yeltsin him-self. The President was lashing out at the Federation Council. Russia's upper house of parliament, which had humiliated him in refusing to accept Mr Skuratov's resignation.

The release of the videotape was yet another move in a complex power struggle between the ailing Mr Yeltsin and Yevgeni Primakov, his increasingly popular Prime Minister.

The tale of the prosecutor and the prostitutes has failed to produce outrage among the cynical Russian people, long used to a staple diet of sex scandals and political intrigue. As to the explicit content of the tape itself, it was nothing com-

Prosecutor and prostitutes saga weakens Yeltsin, Anna Blundy in

Moscow writes

pared to the routine sex and violence that is Russian television's nightly fare. The affair has left the embar-

rassed prosecutor and the angry President battling for what moral high ground re-mains. Mr Skuratov claims the footage used to blackmail him into resigning last month was obtained illegally. There was no secret as to

who he thought was behind the blackmail -- the man the Russians love to hate and that stalwart of Kremlin intrigue, Boris Berezovsky. Everybody knows that Mr Primakov has been embroiled in a bitter con-

The President, irretrievably weakened by the defiance of the Federation Council and the prosecutor, left hospital for flict with Mr Berezovsky, a his residence, Gorky-9, yesterday. The energetic Prosecutor-General had blatantly defied Mr Yeltsin and baffled observers by arriving for work last week without warning after nearly a month's absence. The sordid affair has nei-

dollar.

ther shocked ordinary Russians nor damaged Mr Skuratov's reputation, for this kind of scandal is usually met with grudging respect. President Clinton's popularity ratings soared in Russia with the news of his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Ironically, the sex scandal

friend of the Yeltsin family

The Prime Minister had or-

dered investigations into Mr

Berezovsky's business deal-ings and Mr Skuratov men-

tioned many Berezovsky-related companies as he pleaded for the Federation Council's

In turn, Mr Yeltsin accused Mr Skuratov of immorality.

saying via a spokesman that

"only morally untainted per-

He is thought to have al-

lowed the compromising video-tapes to be aired in an attempt

to prove his point. A spate of

vengeful sackings within the presidential administration is

now anticipated, with Nikola

Bordyuzha, the Chief of Staff,

and Oleg Sisuyev, his deputy, looking the most vulnerable

The markets are also expected

to react, with the rouble plum-

meting further against the

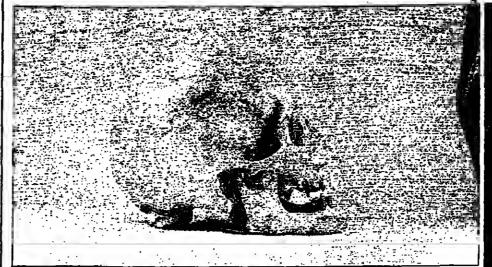
sons can combat crime".

mercy on Wednesday.

has erupted on the very day Patriarch Aleksei 11 condemned the glut of sex and violence that dominates Russian television. "Such a situation destroys spirituality and har-mony in society," he said. The Communist-dominated

Duma last week passed a censorship Bill aimed at ridding the media of the violence and pornography that has saturated it in recent years. Mr Yeltsin has promised to veto the Bill.

Leading article, page 23



Photographs taken in 1970 showing the skull of Goethe, right, and his sarcophagus after the tomb was opened

Goethe's tomb was raided by **East Germans**

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

EAST GERMAN scientists raided Goethe's tomb in a nocturnal cloakand-dagger operation intended to retrieve the remains of the 18th-century writer for posterity, Weimar officials said yesterday.

The city's Classics Foundation said.

the hitherto unreported exhumation was carried out nearly 30 years ago. In November 1970, seven East German scientists used the pretext of a defective lock on the dead poet's sar-cophagus to open the tomb. located in a special burial vault on the outskirts

There was no secret about it, but the matter was handled with the utmost discretion." said Jürgen Seifert, the Weimar foundation's president. The subsequent removal of Goethe's remains was carried out at dead of night to avoid exposing the then Communist state to charges of The scientists found the poet's

remains in an advanced state of decay. The contents of the sarcophagus were taken by handcart to the city's National Museum.

Goethe's skeleton was cleaned and

then returned, again at night, to the burial vault three weeks later. A detailed report and seven roles of

film documenting the exhumation were stored in the anatomical collection in Weimar's National Museum before they were found recently.

They showed that a crown of laurel leaves on Goethe's skull had been reinforced with plastic, a city spokes-

The discovery is potentially embar-rassing for Weimar. The city is trying to polish its image as this year's European city of culture and will host the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth later this

A-spokeswoman for the Weimar Classics Foundation yesterday dismissed suggestions that the removal of the poet's remains could be construed as desecration.

"It was simply an attempt to preserve the remains for posterity." she

But she added: "The way it was handled was typical of how such things were done in those days."

Serb troops 'ready for martyrdom'

AS THE Kosovo peace talks ground to a halt in Paris yesterday and the Serbs were issued with a fresh ultimatum to accept Nato peacekeepers in Kosovo or face airstrikes, the Yugoslav Army said it was preparing counter-attacks against Nato targets in the neighbouring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and in the Adriatic

Milosevic is given new ultimatum on airstrikes as Kosovo peace talks stall,

writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

Defence analysts close to the military hierarchy in Belgrade said the army was prepared for a do-or-die stand, and was confident that newly-acquired Russian anti-aircraft systems would help the large but cashstrapped force to repulse an initial wave of Nato airstrikes. Officials at the stalled talks said those could begin late Yugoslav Third Army in Kos-

next week if the Serb delegation fails to agree to the peace plan by a revised deadline of Wednesday. The Albanian delegation signed the Contact Group document last night.

"It is the orientation of the Yugoslav Army's supreme commander and the military leadership and primarily that of our people that Kosovo-Metohija must be defended at all costs." said General Nebojsa: Pavkovic, commander of the

ovo. The overall army chief, Dragoljub Ojdanic, told military cadets to "prepare for martyrdom in the service of the fatherland". Nearly 93 per cent of Serbs questioned in a poll backed the generals, and said the army should hit back at

Nato targets where possible. "I am sure the army will not remain passive," said Miro-slav Lazanski, a respected military analyst with the pro-regime newspaper Vecernje Nevosti. He said senior commanders had outlined a list of potential targets, including the new Nato headquarters of Ku-manovo in northern Macedonia, along with more established sites in eastern Bosnia.

The Yugoslav Army's fleet of MiG 29 fighters, he said, was prepared for sorties against Nato warships in the Adriatic, which could also be attacked from missile sites in Montenegro.

The bellicose rhetoric runs contrary to the more widely accepted scenario that President Milosevic of Yugoslavia will allow Nato to execute pinprick strikes against unmanned and moribund military targets before throwing in the towel and

allowing peacekeepers into

Which option he chooses may well depend on public opinion, and the personal danger he feels from radicals like the Deputy Prime Minister Vojislav Seselj, who advocates war with Nato.

Serbia's one wavering supporter in the Contact Group, Russia, was yesterday still trying to persuade its Western parmers to approach airstrikes with great caution.

"If events take a military turn in Kosovo, it will spread to neighbouring states, and the Balkans as a whole will catch fire, said the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, in Moscow.



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Egypt seeks to scotch organs for sale claim

EGYPT'S political, legal and medical establishment moved with rare alacrity yesterday to my to scotch allegations by Nile Delta MPs that 25 children had been sold to private hospitals — then murdered for their body parts. Al Akbar, one of Cairo's two

leading semi-official dailies, carried a front-page story claiming that an official invesfigation that opened this week had proved the allegations untrue. The paper devoted a page to its own investigation into what one headline described as claims that a foundlings' home in Ithe governate of Menoufieh had been turned into an abattoir.

The story included photographs of the death certificates of four alleged victims of a trade in human organs that the ten MPs claimed had taken place over three months. The certificates showed various natural causes of death.

A doctor at the educational hospital in the town of Shibeen Al-Qom. 36 miles north of Cairo and the alleged centre of the organ market, said: "There is no doubt that children in the two institutions lived in appailing and squalid conditions, but there is not yet a shred of evidence I have seen that they died because their organs were being pirated."

Both institutions at the heart of the case, now under an inel-Arabi, the general prosecu-tor, were closed late last year after repeated allegations of ne-glect, ill treatment and financial mismanagement by their separate administrators, a hus-band and wife team. The boards overseeing the institu-tions have been closed and the remaining 46 children moved

to the town's third orphanage. Bahiga Haman, its new head, said: "We took over on February 27 after a decision to

Newspaper headlines speak of a foundlings' home being

turned into an

abattoir ?

get rid of the former management. The children were very sick and in bad shape. No blankets, no medical care. Most of the children are men-

tally handicapped." The MPs who made the allegations had by last night failed to provide detailed backing for their claims, which centred mainly on the alleged proximity of the numbers on death certificates over a short period, which raised suspi-

cions that they had been forged to cover wrongdoing.

Hana Abu-Khatira, one of the first Egyptian journalists to investigate, told *The Times*: The main feeling among doc-tors at the hospital and Social Affairs Ministry officials who have already investigated these claims is that they are part of a political game being fought out in the Menoufieh

Ms Abu-Khatira added that doctors said many of the dead children were too young for

their organs to be marketable.

Addi Hussein, the local governor, was one of the first to deny the allegations. He was responsible for dissolving the boards of both institutions in November and December because of irregularities.

The allegations caught the public imagination because there are repeated rumours in Egypt - both of poor boys and girls being sold into prostitution to rich Gulf Arabs, and of organ markets run via coded newspaper advertisements.

"In a society where chil-dren's arms and legs are broken by their own parents to make them better street beggars, such stories (of organ markets) cannot be quickly dismissed," said one Cairo doctor. "But in this case, as of today, the facts to back up allegations of the systematic sale of so far unidentified organs of foundlings are still missing."



Some of an estimated 18,000 Iraqi pilgrims — many without food or money — gathered on Saudi border in preparation for the Haj to Mecca. They plan to cross the frontier in defiance of United Nations sanctions which restrict travel. Saudi officials have refused to say whether they will allow them to cross the border. It is a sacred duty for every Muslim to make the journey to the Prophet Muhammad's birthplace once in their lifetime

Iraq on the way to making nuclear weapons

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq may be on the verge of producing a workable nuclear weapon, according to a report citing hitherto unpublished evidence from an Iraqi nuclear scientist who worked for a decade on the secret nuclear weapons programme before defecting.

United Nations weapons inspectors believe that a plant west of Baghdad, which the Iragis say is a tractor factory.

is designed to manufacture enriched uranium for nuclear bombs, and "there is mounting evidence that Iraq may be assembling a secret nuclear reactor to generate plutonium", according to yesterday's Wall

Street Journal Airstrikes by US and British warplanes are continuing in Iraq almost daily. But after the withdrawal of UN inspectors jast December, there are increasing fears that Saddam is in a position to resume a fast-track programme make nuclear weapons.

"Either the uranium or plutonium could provide Saddam with what he needs to build a bomb, and much sooner than many in the West think," the report said.

Information about both secret weapons programmes was passed to American officials more than four years ago, but never made available to the UN Special Commission for the Disarmament of Iraq, the report claimed.

Operation Desert Fox did little damage to the plants where Iraq's nuclear equipment is thought to be stored, and with the end of UN inspections Saddam may have begun rebuilding his nuclear production capability.

"If Iraq had access to nuclear material, it could produce a workable nuclear weapon within one year," a senior official at the International Atom-ic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna was quoted as saying.

UN weapons inspectors are particularly concerned by the tractor factory" at al-Ubur. The plant contains a high-voltage power source and a plant for water purification, two of the facilities necessary for operating the particle accelerators used by Iraq to enrich uranium before the Gulf War. the West but remains an effective method. "We are worried what the Iragis can do in this facility," one weapons inspec-tor said. The report is supported by documents obtained through the Iraqi opposition group, Iraqi National Congress, and provided by a nuclear technician who defected in

Black Islamic leader 'close to death'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the fiery and controversial leader of the Nation of Islam, is close to death. He is suffering from pros-tate cancer, but some of his followers suggest that he has been poisoned by the

According to a report in the minister's own newspaper, The Final Call, he has been gravely ill since earlier this year. "In the 44 years I have known him I've never seen him this sick. To me, at one not found that."

point, he was at death's door." Mr Farrakhan, who has ruled his organisation with an iron fist for more than two decades, has said that he is suffering from prostate cancer and was treated in Libya by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's doctors. But The Final Call quoted a recent speech in which he said that he did

not know what was wrong with him. He said the "illness took me down so "My Brother is struggling to overcome fast that it concerned me greatly because, the forces of death," said Jabril Muham: though I'm nearing 66. I have never been mad, a member of the Nation of Islam. sick like this in my life. If it is a virus, several from view.

eral doctors that are working on me have

The newspaper said that after Mr Parrakhan made his speech he rallied, and this was attributed by the author to a miracle wrought by God.

But the Village Voice reported that members of his group claim he has been poisoned by the US Government. The minister says he knows who, he knows where, and he knows why, he just doesn't know what was used to posion him," said



Farrakhare diagnosed with prostate cancer

64,000 pigs to die in virus scare

FROM REUTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN armed forces will have killed 64,000 pigs by this weekend to fight a deadly virus said to have caused the deaths of up to 51 people and prompted a major health scare, officials said.

About 1,400 soldiers and policemen will move into three Negri Sembilan to shoot the animals, suspected of carrying a virus causing the deadly Jap-anese encephalitis (JE) disease, officials said.

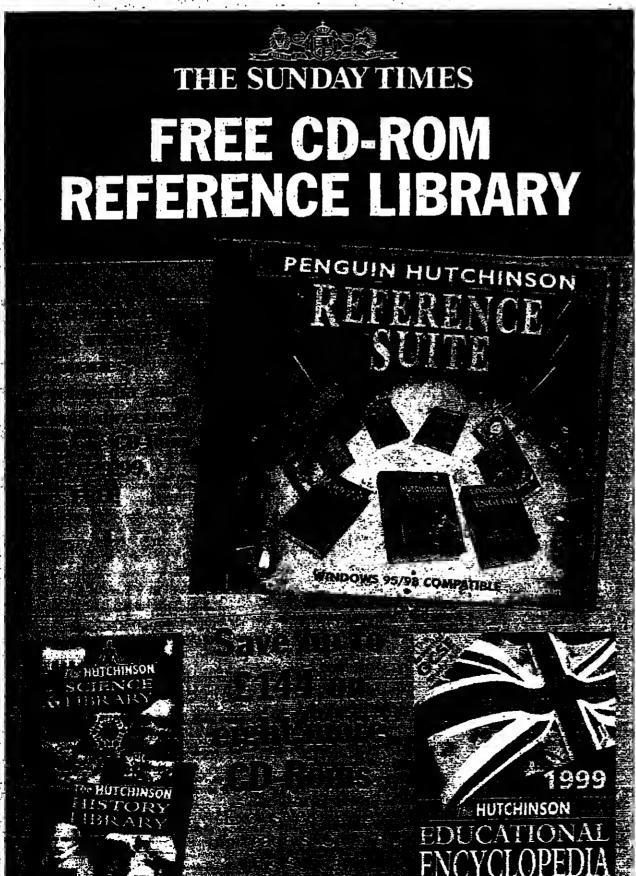
They said at least 31 people have died in Negri Sembilan of suspected JE. transmitted from infected pigs to humans by the culex mosquito. Unconfirmed reports say that up to 51 people have succumbed to the disease since October.

Its symptoms include head-

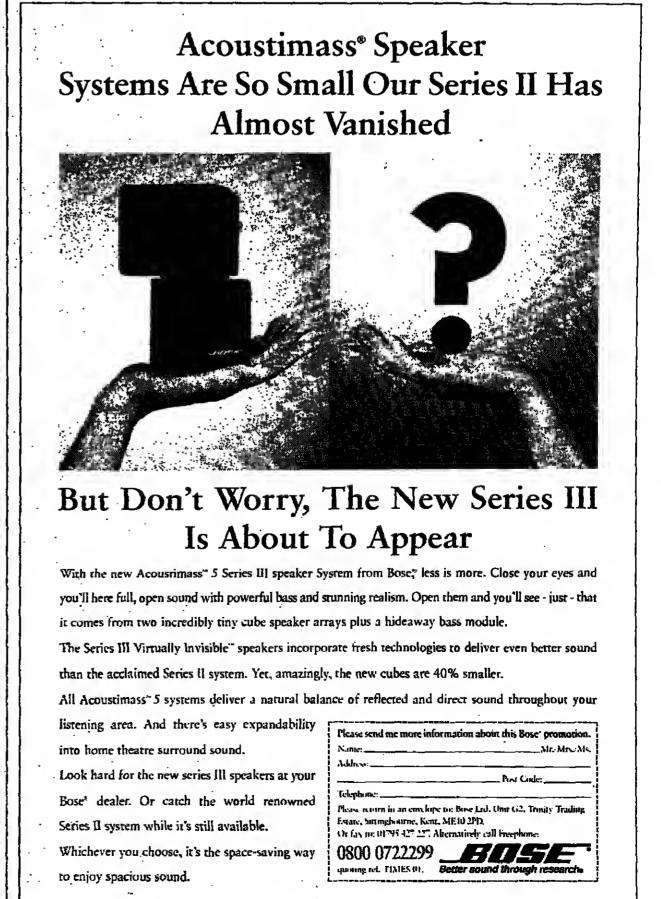
ment can result in paralysis or

The JE outbreak has caused some farmers to abandon their pigs and flee, emptying several towns in Negri Sembi-

"Panic-stricken have lost confidence, leaving their pigs unfed and roaming around." Ling Liong Sik. Transport Minister and head



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Oscars upstaged by a real-life drama

IN A looming nightmare for the Oscars organisers, the year's top films and actors seem certain to be upstaged on Sunday by a 50-year-old feud over Stalinism and the ethics of betrayal.

Elia Kazan, one of the century's great directors, has refused to apologise for naming eight colleagues with links to the Communist Party at the height of the McCarthy era. As a result, when he receives an honorary Oscar in front of a billion television viewers he may be applauded, booed or

met with sullen silence. Now 89 and in failing health, the cinematic genius behind On the Waterfront and by Hollywood for talking to the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee in

Giles Whittell reports on the furore over the decision to give ostracised Elia Kazan an honorary award

1952. He has not discussed the affair since declaring bluntly four years ago: "I don't care any more."
But his wife broke the fami-

ly's silence this week, warning that those who have called for a televised apology: "It's not going to happen."
The decision to recognise

Kazan for his lifetime's work has already overshadowed the duel between Shakespeare in Love and Saving Private Ryan for the year's Best Picture prize. The decison was taken after an impassioned speech by the actor Karl Malden, one

Joseph Fiennes, left, as the lovelorn young Bard, and the writer Tom Stoppard

of the director's oldest friends. but it drew an angry response from those who claim he had wrecked their careers.

Abraham Polonsky, 88. has said of Kazan's award: "I'll be watching, hoping someone shoots him. It would no doubt be a thrill in an otherwise dull evening." Polonsky scarcely worked in Hollywood after the director "outed" him as a Com-

weights" - to present it.

De Niro and Scorsese have Bernard Gordon, also blacklisted because of Kazan's evidence, has said that he contribbeen conspicuously silent on uted to "one of the worst civil liberties violations in the coun-

writers have placed advertisements in the Hollywood trade press calling on those attending the Oscars to sit on their hands rather than applaud ture Arts and Sciences, which awards the Oscars, is alarmed. "I know the people doing show are worned; we could have some real Oscar drama, said Army Acherd, Daily Variety's senior colum-nist. He has condemned the by asking Robert De Niro and

'Shakespeare in Love' eclipsed by a legal suitor

By GILES WHITTELL

during the presentation.

The Academy of Motion Pic-

award and accused the Acade-

my of trying to muzzle dissent

Martin Scorsese — "two heavy-

FOUR days before the Oscars, the makers and writers of Shakespeare in Love have been sued in Los Angeles by a novelist who claims they stole her

Faye Kellerman's Elizabethan in-trigue, The Quality of Mercy. "could well have been subtitled "Shakespeare in Love," according to the federal law-suit filed on Wednesday. Published ten years ago, its plotline is about a young and impoverished Shakespeare falling for a woman who becomes betrothed to another.

Tom Stoppard and his fellow screen-writer for Shakespeare in Love, Marc Norman, are both named as defendents in the suit along with Miramax, which financed the film, and Universal, which is distributing it.

Ms Kellerman and her lawyer, Barry Novack, are seeking unspecified

The film-makers have not yet re-sponded to the accusations of plagiarism — though they faced similar ones barely a month ago, when devotees of the 1941 British novel No Bed for Bacon, by Caryl Brahms and S. J. Simon, pointed out that it, too, concerned a

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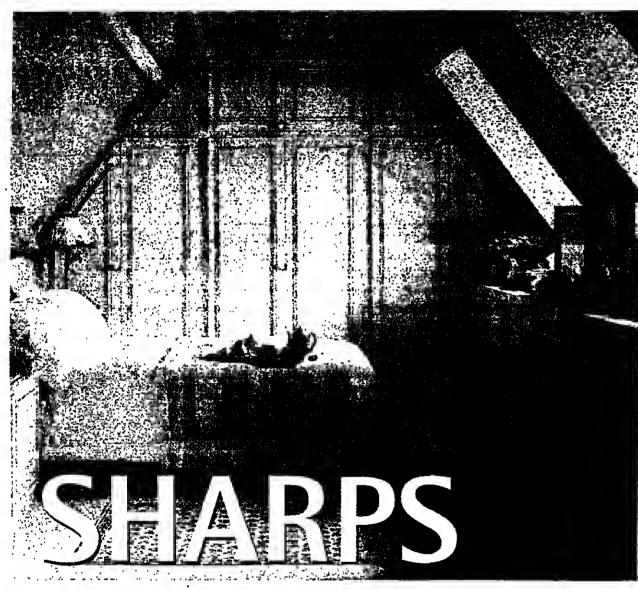
young Shakespeare cured of writer's block only by a passionate fling with a beautiful woman of noble birth pretending to be male in order to act.

Norman, who wrote the first draft of the Shakespeare in Love screenplay, de-nied having read No Bed for Bacon. Stoppard admitted "flipping through" it, but said that he found it "of no use". No legal action has yet been filed on behalf of Brahms and Simon, and that complaint was dismissed by Miramax as "little ado about nothing".

Ms Kellerman's lawsuit is clearly timed to cause maximum embarassment, however; it was filed as virtually the entire Shakespeare in Love cast gathers in Los Angeles to celebrate the film's 13 Oscar nominations.

Plagiarism has been called "a can-cer on Hollywood" by one expert attor-ney in the field — but is notoriously hard to prove Lawsuits alleging pilfered material are commonplace whenever a film turns into a hit.

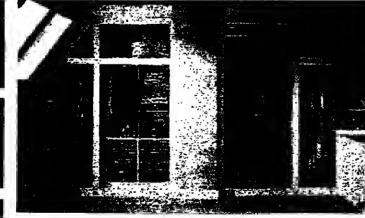
The strongest case in recent years was brought by Barbara Chase-Riboud agains Dreamworks SKG, which she claimed lifted the story of her book, Echo of Lions, for the Steven Spielberg slave mutiny film, Amistad. The suit was settled out of court.



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Missile fears push US to unveil Son of Star Wars

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA and China yesterday attacked America's plans to revive its "Star Wars" missile defence programme. A "Son of Star Wars" was expected to be passed swiftly yesterday in the House of Representatives — a day after being overwhelming-ly endorsed by the Senate.

The speed with which President Clinton and his fellow Democrats have reached agreement with Republicans after years of partisan battling is a reflection of growing worries over the development of missile programmes in North Korea, Iran, Iraq and possibly other rogue states. The final blow came with revelations that China may have stolen

US nuclear missile know-how. The Senate, by a vote of 97 to three, committed America to deploy a defence against limited missile attacks "as soon as technologically possible. The Bill did not specify a time frame or costs, but the Penta-

to track incoming missiles, and land-based interceptor missiles to shoot them down, by 2005. The defences would be a sharply scaled-back version of the vast anti-missile umbrella based in space that was proposed 16 years ago by Ronald Reagan.

His dream proved technically infeasible and lost its purpose with the Cold War's end. The latest proposal has revived the Russians' objections to Star Wars - that it would breach the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty agreed by Nix-Both gambled that, if nei-

ther side had the means to defend its cities, then neitherwould be the first to launch an attack. In time, trust and confidence engendered by the ABM treaty led to the Start I and 2 agreements to reduce nuclear. arsenals.

. The Russian Foreign Minis-

gon envisages having radars try said that the Senate Bill would undermine arms control agreements and posed a serious threat to strategic stability. Russia has been resisting US proposals to amend the ABM treaty to allow limited missile defences.

To underline the point, the State Duma introduced a Bill this week making its delayed ratification of Start 2 conditional on Washington's adherence to the treaty. To placate Mos-.cow, Democrats persuaded Republicans to add opaque language to the Senate Bill saying that America still supports Son of Star Wars must be consistent with policies to reduce Russia's nuclear stockpile.

China's misgivings about a US missile defence shield are rooted in fears that similar technology will be used to protect Taiwan. Blunt opposition

'Please don't kick me,

bite me, crush me, scare me or use me in this way in your festival again!'



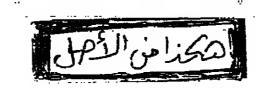
If the donkey used every year at this Festival at Villanueva De La Vera in Spain could talk, he would be pleading with the villagers to stop his torment. Every year they put him through this ordeal and although with the support of the public we are making some progress, we still have much more to do. The IDPT needs your help to fight injustices that happen in places like this and to provide assistance to thousands of donkeys all around the World.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Ethnic clashes in

Jakarta: At least 43 people have died in two days of clashes between rival ethnic groups armed with knives and swords in a remote corner of Indonesia's Borneo island, police said.

More than 500 houses were set on fire and several of the

victims were dismembered or decapitated. The fighting was

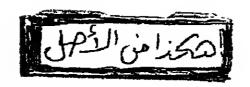
between indigenous Malay villagers and immigrant farmers from the Indonesian island of Madura.

The violence, which started on Wednesday, was the latest

bout of rival ethnic and religious feuding in Indonesia. More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Christ-

ians and Muslims in the Maluku Islands in the country's east

Borneo kill 43



UN official 'enslaved niece'

A HIGH-RANKING civil servant at Unesco in Paris has been deprived of diplomatic immunity amid accusations that he enslaved and maltreated his niece.

+KC11 19 1999

The unprecedented decision to lift immunity from criminal prosecution underlines the embarrassment of Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) at the claims made against Gabriel Mpozagara and his wife, Candide, diplomats said yesterday.

The French police have launched a formal investigation into the allegations, which the couple deny. Mr Mpozagara, 58, is paid a basic salary of \$75,000 (£46,000) a year and a living allowance of

Envoy loses immunity as relative says she was beaten and kept in cellar, writes Adam Sage in Paris

tries Section at the United Nations organisation, which was set up to promote "world peace". Yesterday the Mpozagaras' niece. Chantal Nsamiri-zi. spoke publicly for the first time. She told the magazine L'Evénement that she had been beaten and forced to live in the cellar of their luxury mansion on the outskirts of Paris.

Mile Nsamirizi, 20, said: "My days were always the

\$30,000 as director of the Africa and Least Developed Counand 6am to get breakfast. I did the cleaning, the ironing, I prepared and served the meals, I cleaned the kitchen

> night, sometimes later. I didn't have the right to go out. I was a prisoner." She said she had fled her native Burundi after her Tutsi parents were massacred by Hutus in ethnic fighting in 1995. "I would surely be killed if I went back," she told the

and I went to bed at about mid-

Paris by Mme Mpozagara, 53, along with her four sisters. three of whom were subse-quently placed with French foster parents. The other sister. Yvette, 14, was also kept in the Mpozagaras' celiar. We were not allowed to use

the toilets and bathrooms in the house, and if we wanted to wash ourselves, we had to get water with a bucket from the kitchen," said Mlle Nsamirizi. "Sometimes our aunt flew into rages and hit us with her hand or with a broom." In 1996, French social work-

ers denounced the conditions in which the two girls had been obliged to live. In January, after contacting an antislavery association, they ran away. Police began inquiries

at the beginning of January, asking Frederico Mayor, direc-tor-general of Unesco, to lift diplomatic immunity. "But he dragged his heels," said the girls' lawyer, Patrick Caillet. I wrote saying that, if he did not lift immunity within a day. I would go to the press. Within 24 hours of my letter, he had done so."

Human rights workers say the decision to lift immunity is important because diplomats working in Paris have always escaped slavery allegations.
"It would seem that there have been quite a few diplomats who have used people from their own countries as slaves," said M Caillet. Mme Mpozagara has since returned to Bu-

former Justice Minister in Burundi, has continued in his job at Unesco's headquarters in Paris. He is one of about 100 directors of the organisation that employs a total of 2,600 people and spends \$544 million (£334 million) a year. Britain rejoined Unesco in 1997 after leaving it 12 years earlier.

The Mpozagaras claim that their niece has been "manipulated" by rights associations.



http://www.unicet.org/fluxisht.htm

Treated like royalty

since January. (AP)

Oslo: King Harald of Norway must wait in line for hospital treatment like ordinary patients, a local council ruled after accusing a member of his family of jumping a waiting list for non-emergency treatment, Aftenposten, the daily newspaper, said the unidentified member of the royal family was treated at Oslo's Rikshospitalet hospital instead of waiting for a slot at Akershus, near Oslo - King Harald's official home

Judge overrules US

Miami: A judge ordered that \$6.2 million (£3.8 million) owed to Cuba by US telephone companies can be used to pay compensation to the families of three Cuban-Americans who were killed when their light planes were shot down by the Cuban Air Force over the Straits of Florida in 1996 (David Adams writes). The ruling was made over the objections of the Clinton Administration, which argued that use of the telephone money was unwarranted interference in US foreign policy.

Legionnaires' toll

Amsterdam: An outbreak of legionnaires' disease at a Dutch flower show has killed 13 people and infected at least 50, the Health Ministry said. The Government said that up to 200 visitors to last month's Westfriese Flora show in Bovenkarpsel, 40 miles north of Amsterdam, had reported symptoms associated with the pneumonia-like disease. Officials intensified efforts to find the source and opened centres to answer questions from thousands of worried callers. (AP)

Kalashnikov's pistol

Abu Dhabi: Viktor Kalashnikov is following the path set by his father, Mikhail, inventor of the assault rifle, and has launched his own pistol machinegun, the Bizon 2, which is to equip Russia's police force. "The Bizon 2, which has a laser guidance system, is my latest invention. It was bought by the Interior Ministry in the summer of 1998 and I am very proud of it," Mr Kalashnikov, 56, said at the IDEX-99 defence exhibi-

Rainman struck dead

Lagos: A Nigerian rainmaker was killed by lightning this week as he climbed onto a building where a burial wake was being held and tried to divert a rainstorm, the Post Express said. The man, known as Rasaq, was employed by a family in Abeokuta, southwestern Nigeria, to hold off the rain threatening the burial party and had just climbed onto the roof and started appealing to Sango, the Yoruba god of thunder, when lightning struck and threw him to the ground. (AFP)

Blunder as genocide court releases Hutu

By Sam Kiley, africa correspondent

JUDGES at the United Nations Rwandan genocide trials yesterday freed a former major, who was indicted for the murder of ten Belgian par-atroops and Rwanda's Prime Minister, because of a bizarre blunder by prosecutors.

Bernard Ntuyahaga, who commanded government soldiers alleged to have beaten the paratroops to death with iron bars, was freed by judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at Arusha in northern Tanzania after the prosecution decided to drop charges against him there so he could be extradited

But hopes of his facing a Belgian court were shattered when the judges agreed to the dropping of the charges, then ruled unanimously they had no right to extradite prisoners from UN custody to another country. "The tribunal orders the immediate release of Bernard Ntuyahaga," Judge Navanthem Pillay of South Africa told a stunned court.

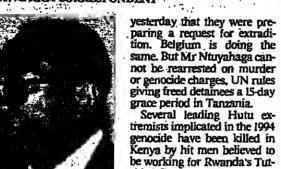
The defendant, also accused of presiding over the rape and evisceration of Agnes Uwilingiyiana, the Prime Minister.



Rwandan firing squad

year from Zambia, where he. had been hiding, to surrender to the UN. About a dozen people have been executed in Rwanda for genocide, and tens of thousands failed in miserable conditions. The maximum penalty the UN can impose is life imprisonment; two mass killers have been given that sentence so far and anoth-

was deeply unhappy. Feartul there has been avoiding that fate would be to of extradition to Rwanda, deal." he said after he was avoiding that fate would be to where he would have faced a freed and then taken back to give himself up to Belgian authorities in Tanzania and be firing squad if convicted, he his cell where he spent last authornies in Tanz entered Tanzania illegally last night. Rwandan officials said flown to Brussels.



si-led Government.

Mr Ntuyahaga's alleged

crime was committed the day

after the start of the genocide

of a million Tutsis and Hutu

moderates, marked by the shooting down of President

which might lead to his extra-

Ntiryahaga: fears facing

Habyarimana's jet at Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. The ten Belgians had been guarding the Prime Minister. a Hutu; under an agreement between Tutsi rebels and the Hutu Government. A moderate who favoured peaceful coexistence between the two groups, she was among the first to die, as her influence could have undone advanced plans for the genocide. Mr Ntuyahaga could face arrest by immigration officials

er has been jailed for 15 years. "I fear for my safety. I think there has been some kind of



President Mandela of South Africa, on an official visit to Sweden to thank it for its support during the apartheid era, admires the bust of Olof Palme, the former Prime Minister murdered in 1986, before addressing parliament in Stockholm yesterday

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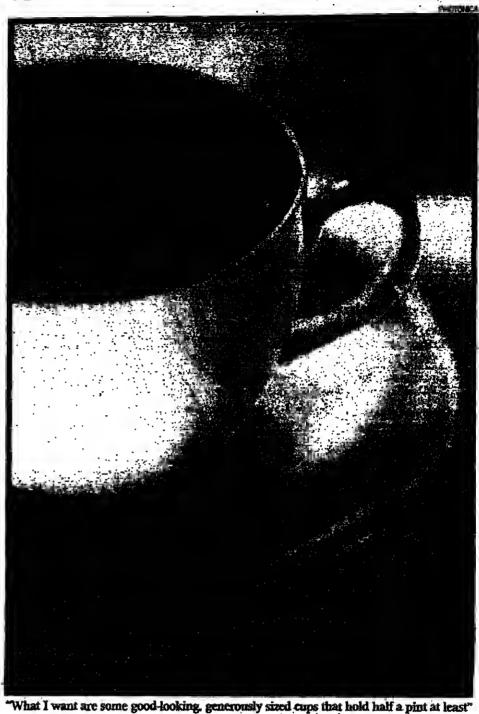
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blends subtly with skin tone. Slightly pearlised, it is available in three tones (no 282/283/284). And it is slow to chip.



Teacups and why size matters



dering down Kensington High Street in pursuit of teacups. I drifted into the Oxfam shop and found, hang-ing on the rail as though it had been waiting for me, a hand-some jacket by Helen Storey in heavy white cotton, printed all over with teacups taken from early 19th-century Wedgwood pattern books.

I can recognise a tap on the shoulder from the finger of fate when I feel one, so I snapped up that jacket and carried it home in triumph, where it turned out to look just as distinguished as 1 had hoped with my nice new navy cropped pants from French Connection. On the other hand, I still haven't solved my

teacup problem.

The sort of cups I was looking for are nothing like the ones on my jacker—fragile objects in translement eggshell porcelain, daintily decorated with sprigs of flowers and foliage, or misty classical vistas of riverbanks and ruined temples. I've got lots of little cups like that in my china cup-board, and not one of them ever sees active service - part-ly because I am a terrible butter-fingers, and their chances of emerging unscathed from the washing up process are vir-tually nil. But also because they hold such niggardly

amounts of liquid. I don't like having to drink tea, or coffee for that matter, in weeny sips as though it were rare old Marsala. And I don't care, either at breakfast time or at 5 o'clock, for all the ceremonial fiddling with milk jugs, sugar tongs and slices of lemon that seems to go with thimble-sized bone china cups. What I want are some goodlooking, generously sized cups that hold a sensible amount half a pint, at least.

Of course, they do these things better in France. If I were planning my ideal day, it would begin there. I would

There was a pretty bit wake up in an enormous lit generously sized breakfast of synchronicity the bateau, in a certain room over-other day when, wan-looking the sea, with the light ware in speckled lapis lazuli pouring in through the gaps in the shutters, the smell of coffee rising from downstairs, accompanied by the comfortable sound of someone else getting the breakfast ready. And on the tray, when it arrived, next to the coffee pot and the croissant, there would be a huge, proper, blue and white breakfast cup filled to the brim

with cafe au lait. At least one of my prim and proper French friends tells me that this is a lamentable lapse of taste and that no respectable French housewife would give shelf room to coffee bowls or oversized breakfast cups. but I don't care. Every time I

cross the Channel I try to the breakage rate is very high, and it occurs to me that it must be possible to restock without having to take the Eurostar every time. What I want is something unpretentious, easily replaced and good-looking enough to bring a whiff of my idyllic fantasy levée even to the horrid reality of the breakfast table at home at 7.30 on a week-

day morning.
You might think Peter
Jones, that great palace of
quintessential Englishness, an eccentric place in which to start the search for Frenchified crockery. But you would be wrong. When you first step into the china department there seems to be nothing but mugs - all very well for nursery tea, but not exactly reeking of Gallic glamour. But press on towards the linen department and there emerges a miraculous selection of pretty.

blue, offset with pale lemon or pistachio at £8.95 for a cup. E6.75 a saucer. If you share my weakness for the French bourgeois look, Gien's Bird of Paradise pattern earthenware, with fancy scalloped edges, is perfect at £11.70 a cup, £8.50 a saucer and £11.50 for a little

breakfast plate. Less fancy but still very charming is Chanticleer, a bright blue cockerel with a scarlet comb trudging through a blue and white snowstorm on breakfast cups, £10.50, sau-cers, £6.50, and plates, £5.95. If you prefer monocirrome at breakfast time, Emma Bridgewater's huge cream cup print-ed in black classical letters with "Good Strong Tea" and "Cafe au Lait" might be the

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very thing at £19.95.
At Heals there is a pretty, summery Coquillage design with blue starfish and shells on pure white porcelain, £22.25 for a cup and saucer; and at Habitat plain white French porcelain coffee bowis with a silver rim are £6.95

each, matching plates £5.95. Even better, for impover-ished students, or anyone else with a sense of style and a tiny budget, is The Pier, where white earthenware bowls with a blue stripe and matching plates are just £1 each, and huge, hand-painted earthen-ware cups and saucers in swirly sky blue, almond green or palest harebell blue are £6.95 each.

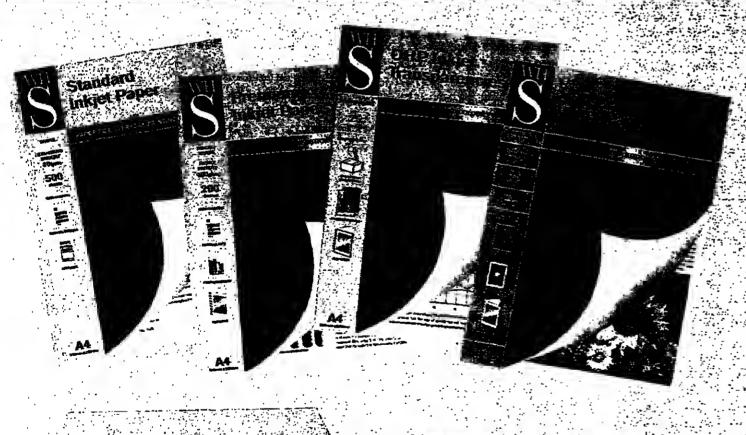
Bhs has handsome Portuguese-painted earthenware.
The nicest pattern, of splodgy cherries and peaches on a pale lemon background, comes only in a rather mean-sized cup and saucer, but there are generous cup-shaped mugs and small plates at £6 apiece and, almost as pretty, a cheer-ful yellow breakfast cup with a scattering of red and blue flowers sunny enough to bring a suggestion of spring to the gloomiest breakfast table

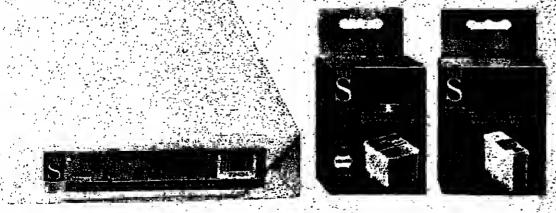


Dull blonde hair can be given a spring gleam with a new range of hair-care products. The shampoo and conditioner are £4.25 each: filac-tinted glossing creme and mousse, and hair balm with glitter are each £3.95. Sheer Blonde by John Frieda. from Boots nationwide.

3 for 2 on computer accessories.*

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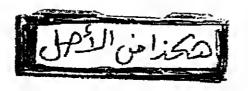




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What? You haven't had an award yet?

didn't want to be the one to have to tell you this, especially after you spent so much on that outfit, but I'm afraid you have not won an award this morning. It was close. And we were all so

impressed by the way you abided by the ancient awards ceremony tradition, whereby all nominees use enough hairspray to qualify officially as a fire bazard if placed near hot cigarette ash. But I'm afraid you missed out this time. Actually, it's worse than that. As

a result of today's disappointment. you are now one of only six people left in Britain who has not won an award for something. This means you have yet to enjoy that emotional experience of brandishing a shirty trouble in feature of the life. shiny trophy in front of a hall full-of people, all of whom are enthusi-astically shricking "why him?" But the fact of the matter is that at your age, you really should have

it's as well to prepare yourself now for the harsh fact that such a victo-ry can upset the closest friends unless you happen to be Demi Moore, in which case it upsets almost everybody). Even Al Gore has won an award, and he has less star quality than head lice.

And there are so many awards to choose from today. There are film awards, play awards, book and art awards, pop awards, TV awards, singing awards, awards for best pipe smoker, best specia-cles wearer, best moustache-waxer. sportsman of the year awards, Nobel Peace Prizes, best commercial, best tie wearer, best chef, best tablecloth in an Italian restaurant - and you haven't won any of them.

You could always play the aloof card, like Sartre, and refuse the Nobel Prize for Literature oo the ground that, like Jean-Paul, you

feel like reading your books, rather than by what he dismissively called "celebrity collectors".

But this attitude might seem a bit rich if you haven't actually been

to bed with Simone de Beauvoir. Or you haven't written several dessing novels about men who felt they dido't exist unless they did something drastic but who, having dooe something drastic, then be-came very nauseous. At the very least you should have eyes that stare out at the world in opposite directions, as if they've had a tiff and neither is quite ready yet to unfold its arms and bury the hatchet. On the other hand, if you do have problems with your optical alignment, it's not too late to catch a flight to Los Angeles for Sun-

day's Oscars ceremony, where

physical or mental disability is dis-

proportionately rewarded by

you don't have a genuine disability, in which case you can't get your foot in a producer's door - even if you have a foot. The disabilities that Hollywood prefers to fete are confected ones, such as Daniel Day Lewis's in My Left Foot, or Jack Nicholson's in One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, or Geoffrey Rush as the unbinged virtuoso in Shine, or the blind Audrey Hepburn in Wait Until Dark).

hat makes the Oscars such a benchmark io the wards calendar is that members of the American Academy of Motion Pictures cast their votes by means of a special voting system which, because it is both confidential and also uses the latest hacker-proof computer technology, can be relied on always to threw up the most undeserving

To be frank, leaving it so late has probably ruined your chances of bagging one of the Academy's main prizes. But that doesn't mean you couldn't be a conteoder for one of the many awards dished out under "other categories", defined as "films you would oever pay to see, even if the only alternative was staying at home and watching Demi Moore in Striptease".

But if you still come home emptyhanded, don't despair. It can only be a matter of time before an award is created that fits you like a glove. Today there are so many rival awards for films and books that companies hoping to sponsor a new award have to be inventive if they want to find space oo the mantelpiece for another bronze statuette, which explains the Footwear Federation Awards for Films in which Actors Wear Shoes of er Materials. Am I right in think-ing that could just be you?

This hunger for awards also provides Tony Blair with a unique opportunity. Since he is committed to democratising the aristocracy, and since earldoms and dukedoms are the Oscars of the Old World, Blair should put all aristocratic titles—or awards —up for grabs in open competition. All titles could be awarded to British citizens after an annual vote by their peers. A postman might wake up to find he had been given the

award for Best Duke of York, 1999. This would be an innovative way of keeping the nation's historic titles alive, while also injecting more fair play and social mobility into British society. And believe me, if you are not a shoo-in for Leading Marquess in a Support-ing Role, it'll be a travesty.

Why I gave it all up to be a witch

Witchcraft is a fast-growing spiritual practice in America. Phyllis Curott, once a celebrity lawyer, takes her new calling seriously. Should we? Interview by Noreen Taylor

with the features of Carly Simon, dressed in Donna Karan and speaking with the eloquence of a poet looks perfectly at home in the lobby of a smart London hotel. She also acts the part, exhibiting the kind of breezy conidence one expects from a suc-

turned her back on a high-gowfull-time witch?

"I am, and thank you for coming to see me." Why would you, a seeming-

ly intelligent woman, call yourself a witch and high priestess? Are you fond of derision? "I can joke about pointy black hats, like the rest. I ve got

a sense of humour. I've heard all the stereotypical stuff before cackling, toothless hags flying around on broomsticks, invoking evil spells. I listen for a while, then I pull the plug and get serious. because the demonisation of witches is inextricably bound up with pamarchal religions and the tyranny women have suffered through-

out history. "The word witch comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word wicce, meaning wise one. Using the term 'witch' forces the world to confront its negative stereotypes and the dark history of misogyny from which those stereotypes have sprung." Curott is keen to banish more myths. Witches do not wear black, preferring mostly "jewel colours" such as blue, green and red.

We do not worship the Devil." she says. There was no Devil in the pre-Christian religion of goddesses. Nor do we cast spells

to harm people — it's a grave violation of Wiccan spirituality to use power to control another. Witches learn to work with the energy present in the natural world, to transform themselves. Magic is bringing one's own divine power into

manifestation." OK, so when she poured the lea there was no need to worry about the pot containing the eve of a news and the soe of a frog. It's all more serious, right? Formally known as the High Priestess of the Circle of

Ara, the president of the Covenant of Goddesses; Curott claims witchcraft is one of the fastest-growing spiritual prac-tices in the United States. Even the famous are drawn to it in the preface to her book, she names four women who have come out in public as believers in the new goddess: Tori Amos Cybill Shepherd, Erica

drew up differacts for rock-worken in the media who supstars. So, Phyllis, you're now a port and perceive what I am doing and who have helped me to reach a wider audience. Witchcraft empowers women. You stop taking crap. You say ."I'm sorry boys, move over. You don't have the one true way". By so doing, you are challenging the last bastion of the.

patriarchal structure. "I've toured 20 cities in the

if it was all a question of belief. What charges my batteries is evidence, experiences. You know what would be marvellous now? If I was at home I could invite you to one of my circles to do a bit of journeying.

"Everything would become so much clearer then. You cessful New York lawyer.

But Phyllis Curon has Jong and Olympia Dukakis.

But Phyllis Curon has Jong and Olympia Dukakis.

Sisterhood is powerful, eyes and think. Oh this is so unread her back on a high-pow.

"Sisterhood is powerful," eyes and think. Oh this is so unread her back on a high-pow.

"Sisterhood is powerful," eyes and think. Oh this is so unread her back on a high-pow. start dramming, you would eventually relax, breathe deeply, and begin to have visions.

When I stopped drumming you'd sit up and talk about your visions with the others in the circle, and you'd find that you had shared the same images. You'd think you had been imagining it all, but you would have experienced something true and real."



searched in the rational world, my flashes, telepathic visions and intuitions - too many to ignore, I might tell you - lay in science, in the study of quanturn physics.

"Scientists now recognise MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY that human beings have a remarkable capacity in ecstatic states of consciousness to integrate with the Universe, slowing our beartbeat, moving back in time, having out-of-body experiences. There are many such examples."

Curou's husband, the photographer Bruce Fields, joins us. He is also a witch because men can also be witches. Warlocks are, it appears, so yesterday. Since meeting Phyl-

lis I've become active in

the movement I'm worried about the world and how we are all killing ourselves," says Fields. He then embarks on a history lesson about shamans, Native Americans, aborigines — old civili-sations that did not, he claims, use the world as a warehouse of disposables. Curott asks: "Shall we tell you how

we met?" "Yeah, let's tell her," says Bruce excitedly. We met in a dream six years ago," she claps her hands excitedly. "I was divorced, dating like crazy, but bored. I decided i wanted love in my life. So on my birthday, when I get to do.

like, introspective goals, and give gratitude to the goddess within, I made a love spell. Then I asked the sage of the Universe to give me a sign. 50 I'd know it was him. That night 1 dreamt of a

dark, handsome man who was wearing a leather jacket and sitting on a Harley-Davidson motorbike. Eight months later some friends invited me to dinner to meet a friend of theirs. Guess who? Bruce. Yes, Bruce. On a Harley."

for her. If you require a love spell, not to mention inspiration spells, success spells and instructions on how to make a protective amulet, her book reveals all. Broomsticks and newts are not required.

Well, dear reader, it worked 2. Time Low APR Purch on all models.

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In reality witches eschew black in favour of "jewel colours" such as red or green

US talking to audiences about

magic, telling them of the in-

ner journeys I've made. After-

wards, women come up to me

saying 'I know exactly what

you're talking about. I've had

those flashes that have turned

out to be premonitions, too"."

She senses that her stories of in-

ner journeys are not convinc-

ing me and stops mid-sen-

lectuals. My parents brought me up to believe in ideals, not in religion. When I was a law student and began to have experiences I couldn't find answers for, I didn't go to the world of gurus and mystics. I

This evidently has material

benefits. Curott says the visual-

isation leads to energy, which one takes away from the circle,

re-empowering the believer

and helping her towards

achieving goals. I think I've

got it right. Anyway. I found

myself wondering silently if

that was how Cybill Shepherd

landed her TV series Cybill

when Curott suddenly said:

"Cybill eventually got the

show she wanted through a

combination of techniques

learnt through spiritual prac-

tices." Spooky or what! Being

a witch, says Curott confident-

ly, is not a rejection of science.

nor is it a regressive step back

" I am the daughter of intel-

into a world of superstition.

The worst of all possible **Europes**

Bernard Connolly fears a new

Reich of tribalism and corruption

→ he European Commission is a corrupt institu-tion. It is corrupt be-cause there is no ultimate accountability to the taxpayers of the European Union countries, who provide the money that the Commission then misuses. It cannot be resolved

by a change of faces.

And it goes beyond the Commission. The top dog in the EU structure — the Country cil of Ministers — is equally unaccountable (and shares with Cuba and North Korea the dubious distinction of beiog the only political entity that legislates in secret). Lack of accountability is built into the EU structure, which is not only undemocratic but deliber-

ately anti-democratic. If Europe were federal, then the role of unelected commissioners would disappear and they would be replaced by ministers in a European Government. The executive might then, in theory, be accountable to Europeans as voters. But there is no chance of that. The people of most EU countries simply do not want it. Perhaps more important, politicians and bureaucrats are far too enamoured of Europe's "democratic deficit, and of the opportunities for unaccountable power — and in some cases personal financial profit - it

brings. "Europe" is quite simply the most effective way anyone has thought up, short of dictatorship, for evading democratic control. Why are elector-

institutional cor-

ruption? The con-

ventional answer,

stated most naked-

ly by Helmut Kohl,

the former Ger-

man Chancellor, is

that without "Eu-rope" there will be

war: with "Eu-

rope" there will be

Proud ates prepared to nations are put up with such being

reduced to

empty

John Major once tried to lack of the political institutions defend the EU's incursions into British freedom and democracy by saying that, in effect, there would always be an England. But it would not be the England — and still less the Britain - of Queen. Parliament and Common Law. Instead, he said. Brussels would always let spinsters cycle home from church; warm beer would be there to compete with lager: village greens would resound to the

thwack of willow on leather. Major was probably too optimistic about how long these English eccentricities would survive the prying eyes of eurocrat zealots. But sup-pose he was right. He would then be defining our identity in terms of a set of cultural myths. The French coined the deliberately mocking franglais term folklorique to describe just this kind of hooey. But now the French themselves. once a proud, free and democratic nation, are increasingly reduced to the same empty symbolism as a poor substi-

The great genius of the British and French polities something they have in common with the United States was that a nation was successfully created out of allegiance to political institutions. This has allowed those nations to become, to a greater extent than in any of the other

European countries, genuinely mulocultural and relatively tolerant. Let "Europe" take away that allegiance by destroying the relevance of domesoc institutions and the British and French nations would dissolve. The ineradica-ble desire of human beings for a sense of belonging would then be expressed in tribal ways: through race, language, religion, sexual orientation, accent — and through hostility

to anyone with different tribal characteristics. The promotion of Frenchness and Englishness in cultural terms will be an open invitation to racists. If Britain and France are subsumed into "Europe", those excluded from the majority tribe within each country will have to defend themselves against all-too-profitable harassment — the har-assment is already happening, if so far in mild form, in those flowers of "the Europe of the Regions", Scotland and Flanders. Postwar Europe has seen the horrors of Northern Ire-land, Bosnia and Kosovo, As

political nations are brought tumbling down by the EU, it may yet see more such hor-Germany, of course, has never been a political nation. and has been all the worse for that historic absence. Ger-

man-ness has always been defined in ethnic terms; even today, proposals to allow German nationality to ethnic Turks born in Germany are considered shocking. As "a nation 19th-century Germany defined itself first in the "cultural" terms of Romantics such as Fichte

and Herder and

subsequently in the

economic terms of the Zollverein.

symbolism When the Greater Prussian empire was created, its of a democratic nation-state, combined with its unremitting hostility to the non-statist

called "Anglo-Saxon" world, made it a dangerously dynamic force, ultimately destroying that balance of power that had contributed so much to European peace. German experience suggests that Kohl's thesis is completely wrongheaded. Worryingly, if Europe is evolving at all, it is evolving not towards a nation-state but towards an empire, along the

lines of the Prussian-dominated Wilhelmine bureaucratic Reich, though perhaps with dominion exercised jointly by Germany and France. It thus threatens to provide the worst of all worlds. The increasing accountability within such a structure will mean that institutional corruption flourishes. Yet the effective destruction of national democracy will risk creating both political terrorism and tribal conflict. Idealism, however mistaken, may have played some part in the motivation of early postwar advocates of a united Europe. Today, sadly, is hard to believe that anyone can be genuinely idealistic about the EU. It is much easier to believe that the proponents of "Europe" are cynical to the point of evil.

comment@the-times.co.uk



A song for Ireland

ill Clinton is becoming the ham actor of Irish diplomacy. At the White House on wednesday night, he just managed to keep a straight face and solemnly tell his Ulster guests to resolve their differences before

Good Friday. He flashed his sequins, danced a jig and put some more bourbon on ice. Resolving Northern Ireland has always seemed that simple to the expatriate Irish of America, Indeed, all the world's ailments seem simple from within that mighty fortress. It is as if the tears of nations could he dried by dropping a bomb, signing a cheque or squeezing a hand on the White House lawn. I once stood on the beach in Beirut and watched a vast American battleship nonchalantly lobbing shells into the mountain villages behind me. It was under orders from President Reagan to "do something about Lebanon". The ship then steamed off home. "Thar'll teach the Ay-rabs to mess with Uncle Sam," said an American diplomat ironically.

American platitudes will never solve Ulster's differences. The peace process is neither peaceful nor a process. It is merely another chapter in a six-year-old saga of jaw-jaw amid low-intensity war-war, to which we bore sad witness yesterday in Portadown. Those who have watched governments mishandle Northern Ireland for years teeter between rage and despair. Perhaps, as Eliot said, humankind cannot bear very much reality. But we are entitled to ask, after 30 years, how much longer this unreality is to continue. So much hot air, so many conferences, so many corpses, and for what? More photo opportunities.

The 1998 Good Friday agreement was flawed for precisely the reasons stated at the time. It was never an agreement. Nobody so much as shook hands. It was merely a muted acceptance of an unbalanced list of putative concessions. The IRA would get all its men out of fail and sit in a new assembly and on its executive, handsome reward for three decades of mayhem. Unionists said they would buy this on one condition. If they were to share the running of the Province with members of the IRA, the IRA should be visibly and completely disarmed.

The leaders of Britain and America, powerful men before whom even the tyrannical Saddam and Milosevic are supposed to quail, pledged themselves to achieve this disarmament. They have failed. The IRA has White House cabaret turns and platitudes

are no solution to Ulster's tragedy

called their bluff. The deal was clear, so the deal must be off. The Unionist leader, David Trimble. may let ambition get the better of him, and try next week to set up an executive of sorts. But if he does he will go the way of Terence O'Neill and Brian Faulkner, Ulster leaders before him. If Mr Trimble rules the Province with the present IRA/Sinn Fein, his followers will desert and he will fall, rammed on to his sword by London's ineptitude. If he rules without the IRA, he will rule honestly, but almost certainly with-

out nationalists. which destroys the whole point. Even if miracles

cross-community, utive is set up with majority Unionist consent, it will fail. Power sharing has been tried three times before, in different guises, in 1973, 1975 and 1982. As Vernon Bogdanor points out in his new study Devolution in the United Kingdom (OUP). Stormont was always meant as a

Unionist bulwark against Irish Home Rule. It was inevitably a symbol of a paranoid, one-party state. It presided over the freezing of the Province into one of Europe's most politically primitive enclaves, a freeze that direct rule has

Executive power-sharing is a concept of great delicacy, demanding a spirit of compromise and tolerance among group leaders and followers. The idea that it could be imposed on Northern Ireland has always been ludicrous. Its use to heal the wounds of a divided community might apply - I know not where -- if the community were eager to make sacrifices for that

The recent history of Stormont has been of wounds kept open, paraded, bled. Yet power-sharing at Stormont is still the policy of the London Government, even as it

approaches its fourth collapse. Not since the Great War has a British high command seemed so bereft of exits from a well-dug trench, Of course there is an alternative. There always is in politics. The most likely is the continuance of direct rule. Ever since 1973, British ministers have parroted the truism that "peace will not come until the men of violence are defeated". They have used the existence of the IRA as an excuse for avoiding reform. Ulster has become the fatted calf sucking on the British tax-

payer's udder, as its middle class knows to its profit. The made Ulster relative Or the Govern-

its mind on devolution, and devolve not to regional power-sharing but to the counties and cities which were foolishly stripped of power at the time of direct rule. County and city government still exists in England. It is hardly radical. councils would be dominated by one or other

community, albeit under a British security and civil rights umbrella. But political power in the Province overall would be "shared" geographically, rather than centrally. Anyone worried that this might lead to ethnic cleansing should study the demographic polarisation in Ulster under British rule: worse than anything under the so-called Protestant ascendancy.

This option might at least begin to rebuild Northern Irish politics through responsible local democrats, instead of the present raucous cheerleaders. The councils would be small, but no smaller than such units in many European countries. They would bring to the fore a new generation of local leaders, in place of today's extinct volcanoes. The performance of the present Belfast and Londonderry city councils, the strongest existing democratic units in Ulster, is promising. They have not proved the tinpot cauldrons of bigotry at which direct-rule officials love to sneer. They offer a way out of the impasse. Mr Trimble could always run for mayor of Belfast. The violence will continue.

As long as Britain rules any of Ireland there will be violence, emanating as much from the old IRA families in the villages of Armagh and Tyrone as from the politics of Belfast. When an ageing Official IRA declared its ceasefire in 1962, it took just seven years for the younger Provisionals to form. Now they have aged and ceased fire in turn. The banner is passing to the splinters, reinforced by those streaming out of Mo Mowlam's jails.

The way to handle such violence is not by freezing local politics, which has been British policy for 30 disastrous years. Nor is the answer to glamorise the men of violence and offer them a de facto veto on political reforms the trap into which Tony Blair is in danger of falling. They should be marginalised as criminals and not let out of jail. Leadership and responsibility should be built on revived local democracy, not the esteem of the panjandrums of Stormont. This great conflict, after all, is about nothing but local democracy. Ameri-can cities have been as divided and violent as any community in Northern Ireland. America's response has not been to suspend local politics and send in federal commissioners. It has been the exact opposite, to leave mayors, community leaders and police chiefs to graft their own solutions. The approach has been mostly successful. That should be America's advice to Northern Ire-

British policy is on the brink of another humiliation. The American President has been hauled in to "sponsor" a dud plan to enfranchise two million Britons, and an IRA leader has gone to the White House and defied him. If Gerry Adams were an African or arr Arab or even a Serb. Tomahawks would by now be thodding into his "hideouts" in Armagh and West Belfast. But Mr Adams is white, and kith and kin. So he is merely a bit of a card. We raise a glass to St Patrick, and strike up the band. It plays The Wearing of The Green and The Sash My Father Wore... to the tune of Direct

comment@the-times.co.uk

Bianca booster

BIANCA JAGGER has been called in by the Liberal Democrats as they prepare to lose Paddy Ashdown. She is to be presented to the party faithful in London next week as its latest secret weapon when she appears as guest of honour at a dirmer at the National Liberal Club to raise money for the European elections. Bianca, pictured, was attracted not so much by Paddy's masculine appeal, as by the Lib-Dem policy on human rights. Senior bods appears the appears will mount bods suggest the evening will prove so jolly that she will make more high-profile appearances.



THE Royal Institute of International Affairs is having conference on corruption, with a to the field. Sir Leon Brittan.

WINSTON CHURCHILL was closely linked to the release of the Zinoviev Letter which brought down the first Labour Government, an historian on intelligence claims. David Stafford, of Edinburgh University, is to revise his Churchill and Secret Service for Little, Brown after the publication of the Foreign Office's report into the smear which brought down Ramsay MacDonald's first Labour administration. The report mentioned the involve-

ment of Joseph Ball and Sir Desmond Morton, but did not mention their intimate relationship with Churchill. Stafford says the two spooks supplied Winnie with sensitive info to damage opponents. "The PO report raises significant

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pointers to Churchill," says Stafford. "In the Twenties and Thirties, he was of the view that Labour was in bed with Reds." -

ON the eve of the Brussels report, Neil Kinnock was unbowed at a jolly leaving party, confident that he would land the plum job of Foreign Affairs Commissioner.

JAMES BOND has sold his caravan. Roger Moore is putting his mobile borne in Malta on the market because he does not have time to visit the island.

He fell in love with Malta after filming there a decade ago and bought the caravan while looking for a suitable villa. But after a recent trip to the communal showers, he finally admitted defeat.

SIR Peter Hall, John Tusa, Sir Alan Ayckbourn and a cornucopia of disgruntled artistic worthies are ganging up to stalk Chris Smith. I gather they will launch the Shadow Arts Council next Wednesday to harangue the charming Culture Secretary for more money for their pet projects.



THE impending literary battle between John Major and Lord Lamont of Lerwick as they write their memoirs is far from being a

level playing field.

"I was a little alarmed to see that Mr Major has an army of people helping him to write his book."

Norm tells me. "I have an army of one — me. it's Lamont against the world, as always."

GROVELLING in the Upper House after Baroness Jay of Paddington missed a page of her speech. "The pages stuck together," her unsavoury secretary barks. "And she apologised. OK?"

AFIER undermining Peter Jay, Eban Davis has turned to marriage. The economics editor of Newsnight, not the marrying type, has been promoting gay weddings in Prospect. "Gay and lesbian couples should be offered some kind of marriage arrangement There's no reason to imagine gay couples are different from their heterosexual counterparts." I trust he cleared his letter with Sir John

JASPER GERARD

'There was murder in Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between the acts. We had nothing like it in West Cork' done. Marvel it may be, but it's a tion came early, I did not mystery too; and analysing can seriously succumb to it until I n the quite brief time of the the journey to school, past William Trevor

British Literature Prize's existence, it has become some-thing of a tradition for the recipient to speak a little about his or her writing life. Strictly speaking. I suppose, mine began in a small schoolroom in Skibbereen when, as an alternative to parsing and analysis. [was occasionally required to compose six sentences on such random subjects as A Wet Afternoon or A Day in the Life of a Dog. 1 did my best, but even at seven I believe I probably guessed that there was more to words and what you did with them than recording rainfall or reporting that our smooth-haired fox-terrier was infatuated by our cat.

My world at that time was not entensive. There was memory, as far back as it would go, and the modest reality of Skibbereen, which afterwards became memory also: "A mile and a half it was,

Driscoil's sweetshop and Mur-phy's Medical Hall, and Power's drapery, where you could buy oilcloth as well as dresses. Pots of geraniums nestled among chops and ribs in butchers' windows. A sunburnt poster advertised the arrival of Duffy's Circus a year ago. Horses trudged slowly, carts laden with a single churn for the creamery. On fair-days farmers stood stoically by their animals, hoping for the best. On fair-days there was a smell of whiskey and sawdust and stout. "You made the journey home

again at three, the buying and selling over, the publican's takings safely banked, the last of the dung sliding to the gutters. If you had money you spent it on liquorice pipes or stuff for making lemonade that was delicious if you ate it as it was. The daughters of Power's drapery sometimes had money. But they ly at work. There was murder in not to know how the thing is

were always far ahead, on bicycles because they were wellto-do. Or their mother drove them in the Hillman because of Expanding my world. I began

with the school stories: with hockey practices and midnight feasts, beloved head girls and dubious mesdemoiselles, the odd Bolshevik spy. Arctic exploration could not have been stranger, and I read until I had read everything, then turned to Dr Fu Manchu. After that it was the rugged decency of Buildog Drummond, and a hundred or so gentlemanly private detec-

All over England, it seemed to me, bodies were being discovered by housemaids in libraries. Village poison pens were tireless-

Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between the acts. Golfers stumbled over corpses on fairways. Chief constables awoke to them in their gardens. We had nothing like it

omewhere in that communication, in the exhilaraof one imagination touching another, I sensed a marvel. I did not then know that this particular variation of creating something out of nothing mood and image invented and transferred, lines of dialogue becoming people — was simply the art and craft of storytelling. Nor did I know that I was already the victim of storytell-

ing's temptation. I've always thought it's best

be destructive. Interviewers ask questions that seem reasonable enough and yet the answers are elusive. Have I known a man like Mr Hilditch in a recent novel of mine? Or a boy like Timothy Gedge in an earlier one? Or a Mrs Eckdorf or a Mrs da Tanka?

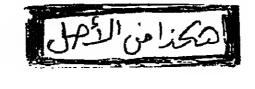
It's a bit of a muddle, I tend to say — the writer and the person untidily overlapping, yet some-times hardly knowing one another. It's true that, to a degree, all fiction is autobiographical: the litmus paper endlessly dipped into personal experience, since the euphoria of happiness, the ache of grief or pain must of course be the storyteller's own. Memory hovers over the past like a figure with a metal-detector on a used-up beach. Yet far more of fiction's raw material

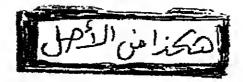
Although storytelling's tempta-

was in my mid-thirties and had come to know well the England I had once imagined. By now I'd seen the lazy undulations of the Cotswolds, patches of sheep guarded by trimstone walls, old women at dusk strolling in their villages, itinerants at dawn moving through the fields, the sea at Sidmouth I had known the beer-blurred underworld of Soho. I had frequented the last of the Corner Houses and watched the rise of the high-rise flats. The first short stories I ever wrote were set in London. For what has happened since you have kindly given me this prize.

The author is the winner of the British Literature Prize 1999. This article is an extract from his acceptance speech.

Philip Howard returns next week







ALWAYS WITH US

Blair joins the cast of politicians seeking to end poverty

Tony Blair yesterday chose the Beveridge Lecture at Toynbee Hall to add to his anned five "early pledges" another somewhat later one. His call for an end to child powerty in Britain within 20 years is an abjective on a vastly different scale from that of reducing NHS waiting lists or school class sizes. There is much to be said in favour of deadlines in political life especially when the aim itself may be universally acclaimed as laudable. It is less pertain whether that applies when, as in fins case, the timescale is so long and the reminology involved distinctly uncertain. Mr Blair is hardly the first politician of the Centre-Left to seek the elimination of noverty. It has been a constant theme, at poverty. It has been a constant theme, at the rhetorical level at least, for every Liberal or Labour Government this century. The Liberal administration that came to power in 1905 contained the first such set of crusaders. Although specific measures were enacted to protect the very young and very old, the thrust of this drive against poverty consisted of measures designed to improve the mobility and quality of labour. Winston Churchill, then President of the Board of Trade, thought that the introduction of employment exchanges alone would have an enormous and positive impact.

The Asquith Government combined the ethical tone of the Victorian age with the emerging social tools of a new era. It mixed public and private provision and recognised that there were limits to what could be imposed through centralised bureaucracy. Much was achieved and the worst aspects of national squalor banished. But

poverty itself was certainly not eradicated. Thirty years later it fell to two more Liberals - John Maynard Keynes and Sir William Beveridge - to take on what the father of the present welfare state would describe as the "abolition of want" from

society. Their liberalism was, however, of a more egalitarian and state-centred form than that which had come earlier. As such it was more than acceptable to Clement Attlee and his colleague, Aneurin Bevan, in the 1945 Labour Government. These apostles of a New Jerusalem were confident that an infrastructure had now been secured that would remove poverty.

They were destined to be disappointed. Although absolute poverty had become extremely scarce, it was evident by the 1960s that even full employment and a large welfare state could not prevent vast disparities in incomes. The Wilson Governments sought to extend the Beveridge model in a piecemeal manner but found themselves overwhelmed by the wider, and ultimately unsuccessful, struggle to salvage what they could of social democracy. Most Labour activists, by contrast, had concluded by the 1970s that all poverty and unemployment was the inevitable and involuntary consequence of capitalism.

. The substance of the Prime Minister's speech was somewhat more significant that the soundbite that accompanied it. Mr Blair outlined an approach that combats social exclusion through work, favours action against the cultural as well as economic aspects of poverty and concedes a larger role for the private sector. Although entitled "the Beveridge Lecture" his words were closer in spirit to those that inspired. Mr Asquith rather than Mr Attlee.

This is not a distinction that Mr Blair deems it diplomatic to dwell upon in public orations. It is, however, the factor that offers him the opportunity to affect real change, if not on the ambitious scale of ending child poverty that he suggested. It will need to be addressed far more openly if his many admirable ambitions for welfare reform are to be translated into action.

RUSSIA'S RING

Where a sex scandal video is but one of the punches

Shadow-boxing, that favoured game of Russia's politicians when their president is too weak to keep them under control, has got out of hand. This time, for once, it may draw real blood.

A pornographic keyhole video shown on television yesterday - revealing Russia's ex-prosecutor, Yuri Skuratov, in bed with two women — was unremarkable in itself in a country where outly tricks long ago replaced policy initiatives. Before he mysteriously resigned six weeks ago. Mr Skuratov had dug enough dirt on his own rivals, including the business tycoon Boris Berezovsky, to make a counter-attack almost inevitable.

The latest infighting could deal sickly President Yeltsin a blow from which he no longer has the strength to recover. For the past eight years, Mr Yeltsin's one tactic for retaining supreme power has been to keep underlings at each others' throats. Periodically, he steps in as referee, knocks heads together, and fires anyone powerful enough to be a personal threat. This time. however, Mr Skuratov's supporters have mustered enough courage to take on the President himself.

Mr Skuratov has boxed clever by hinting that he is being picked on by a broad grouping of the wealthy pro-market politicians whom leftwingers, and ordinary Russians, love to hate. His claim that they include corrupt government ministers, ex-ministers and Central Bank officials was enough in itself to unite the disparate forces of the Left behind him. After months of uneasy truce behind which politicians quietly pursued individual ambitions and vendettas, Russian politics has again become home to a broad, hostile grouping

of leftists on the warpath. When, on Wednesday, Mr Skuratov

openly defied the President by saying he planned to stay in his job, he found powerful allies. Unexpectedly, he was backed by the Federation Council which is made up of regional governors who usually obey the President's every whim. They refused to accept Mr Skuratov's resignation. Simultaneously, the Communist dominated State Duma is planning its annual impeachment attempt.

Russia's elite is in bad shape to fight off a surprise challenge. Weeks of rumours that Mr Yeltsin was planning to sack his centrist Prime Minister, the Soviet-era grandee Yevgeni Primakov, were denied this week by both President and Prime Minister. But Mr Primakov's fate may yet be sealed if debt negotiations with the IMF next week go badly. There is continuing uncertainty over whether the unpredictable President might anyway shed a few left-wing ministers. From his bed, where he is recovering from a bleeding stomach ulcer, Mr Yeltsin has kept Russia guessing as to whom he will favour next, firing Mr Berezovsky from one post, flirting with the liberal economist Grigori Yavlinsky and Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the Federation Council and Anatoli Chubais, cheerleader for the pro-reform faction, but making no binding commitments.

Mr Yeltsin's presidency is in endgame. At best, he has 15 months left in the Kremlin. Ill health makes it uncertain whether he will survive even that long. Russia's economy is in a mess and its relations with the West at a low ebb. As new conflict looms, the two strongest outside presidential contenders. Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and the Governor of Krasnoyarsk, Aleksandr Lebed, are waiting quietly outside the ring to see how this week's fight shapes up.

GENETIC MENU

A lightly cooked up fraud upon the food-buying public

The best and worst of British caterers, from the greasy spoon to the Ritz, will have to bone up, and at some speed, on their molecular genetics. Yesterday Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, announced that regulations on the labelling of genetically modified food, originally drawn up last September by the European Commission, would be enforced not only in shops and supermarkets, but in cafes, restaurants, bakeries and delicatessens.

If the announcement had a ring of desperation about it, Mr Rooker cannot be blamed. For weeks the Government has been trying to get a grip on an issue which somehow escaped the focus groups, spindoctors and political advisers with which it likes to surround itself. Public opinion has so far been unimpressed. At the root of consumers' antipathy is the feeling that they are being sold a product they neither sought nor particularly desire. By giving them a choice through labelling. Mr Rooker is now hoping to lance the boil and allow the fever to subside.

The intention here is noble enough. But it may be too late already. Many people are now convinced that GM foods are a threat both to their health and to the environment. It is pointless, even if true, to argue that those lears are eraggerated. For the Government and the industry they are a lact of life, no less potent for being based on

limited understanding Will the labelling directive succeed in

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

quelling the hysteria? It faces some serious difficulties. It deals only with foods in which the modified gene or the protein it produces is present in the final food. This is. logical: one cannot enforce labelling regulations if there is no way of proving they have been breached. But it will not satisfy those who object to the process on principle. Allied to this is the question of the threshold below which a food will be deemed not to be GM. Vegetarians would hardly be happy if told that their nut cutlets contained less than I per cent meat, but that is likely to be the deal on offer. Such is the integration of the food chain that it will be very hard to ensure that products containing soya do not include a small fraction of the GM variety.

Further ahead lies the problem of sustaining non-GM sources of sova and maize. Farmers in the US. Canada, and Brazil will not willingly grow a less productive crop without charging a premium price for it. The supermarkets which have declared their own brands GM-free may think again when they find they are

paying more for old-style soya.

The choice that the labelling regulations offer to consumers is therefore something of a fraud. It will be hard to enforce and is unlikely to last indefinitely. The best that can be hoped is that is will take the edge off the panic and provide time for unjustified fears to subside. Even that limited success would be welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

A way out of EU Commission crisis

From Mr John Peek

Sir, It has been widely said that the resignation of the European Commis-sioners and of the President (letters, March 17) provides a welcome opportunity for reform of the Commission in respect of greater transparency, accountability and democratic control.

On November 20, 1991, you printed: a letter from me in which I suggested that the Commission should surrender its power to initiate legislation to the Council of Ministers and be converted into an institution with functions resembling those of national

civil services.

If this plan were adopted, there would be no need for a new President of the Commission and no need for any commissioners. The Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers would serve as head of the European civil service, channelling the decisions of the Council for action by the ap-propriate directorates. The Council would be answerable to the European Parliament for its legislative proposals, as is the government of a nation state.

There is much dissatisfaction and confusion over the role of the Commission. Is not now the time to do what has needed to be done long years ago?

Yours faithfully. JOHN PEEK, 07140 Chambonas, France.

From Lord Phillips of Sudbury

Sir. The crisis of the Commission of the European Union is neither disaster nor triumph but an inevitable, and inevitably painful, step along its

road of evolution.

The danger is that the lessons will be misconstrued by both extremes of political opinion vis-a-vis Europe. For those like myself, who are fiercely pro-European but no less fiercely antagonistic to any further political union until and unless British public opinion catches up, there are already signs that the underlying reality is being ignored.

Too many of the Euro-elite persist in their belief that Euro-democracy cari be advanced simply by new constitutional formats and arrangements and by giving the European Parlia-ment more power. But, if the "ordi-nary" public is not consulted, and their affections not engaged (as hitherto), that arrogance will be counterproductive.

A loveless European Union will not be able to withstand a prolonged, or profound, crisis, which is bound to come. That is why Europe must learn to walk democratically before it tries

Yours truly, ANDREW PHILLIPS. As from: Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, EC2V 6BB.

From Mr D. N. P. Radlett

Sir, John Szemerey (Jetter, March 13) seems to suggest that Britain should cease to exist as a nation state. He calls in aid of this fundamentally misconceived argument the words of Winston Churchill. But Churchill observed in May 1947:

There is the United States with all its dependencies; there is the Soviet Union; there is the British Empire and Commonwealth; and there is Europe, with which Great Britain is profoundly blended. Here are the four main pillars of the World Temple of Peace (Winston Churchill, by Heary Pelling, Book Club Association 1974).

No indication there that he was committed to the destruction of

On the wider proposal to create a political European federation, Churchill agreed with Anthony Eden, who commented: This is something which we know in our bones we cannot do (same source).

William Hague's policy on Europe has the support of an overwhelming majority of Conservative Party mem-

Yours faithfully D. N. P. RADLETT (Lecturer in Law and European Studies, Mid Kent College, Chatham), 119 Livingstone Road. Gillingham, Kent ME7 2EJ. radlett@easynet.co.uk March 15.

From Lord Hesketh

Sir, If the Government is to have any credibility in demanding reform in Europe, surely it must set an example to our partners by accepting the resignations of our commissioners, as a matter of principle as well as recognising collective responsibility.

Yours faithfully, HESKETH, 33 Cork Street, WIX 1HB. March 17.

From Lord Bragg

Sir. Your Diarist (March 18) is misinformed in stating that I am a "'deep sympathiser' with Lord Owen's ... pro-Europe, anti-single currency cam-

paign". I am no such thing and have no intention whatsoever of becoming an "upfront campaigner", as your Diarist asserted, for Lord Owen's group.

Yours faithfully. MELVYN BRAGG. London Weekend Television. The London Television Centre, Upper Ground, SEI 9LT.

On the trail of the headless man

From Mr Michael Thornton

Sir, Richard Lamb (letter, March 15), whom I have never met, writes that Lord Denning made him promise not to reveal the identity of the headless man - or, more correctly, "The Man without a Head", as he was described in sections 330-333 of Lord Denning's Report - in the Argyll divorce case. He adds that he "cannot believe" that I "was not obliged to give a similar promise". It would have been wiser, and certainly more courteous, if Mr Lamb had sought to verify this wholly groundless speculation with me before electing to publish it.

Lord Denning first telephoned me at Claridge's Hotel in London on September 22, 1987, after reading in a newspaper that I had begun research on my book, Argyll versus Argyll. In his engaging and lively Hampshire voice, he said (of the headless man): "I want to know how you found out who it was." I replied: "I want to know how you found out who it was."

The result was an invitation to his home at Whitchurch in Hampshire for the first of several meetings, which he allowed me to tape-record. Darting about his study with an agility astonishing in a man of 88, he pulled out file after file containing highly sensi-tive material on which his report was based. Most of this documentation was never published. It revealed that three Conservative ministers had been involved in the Argyll divorce, and that one had felt obliged to offer his resignation from the Cabinet.

Lord Denning showed me the detailed forensic material by which this minister had been cleared of being the man in the photographs, as the late Duke of Argyll mistakenly believed him to be. The minister had been the duchess's lover, and had paid the duke a sum of money in consideration for not being cited in the divorce action - a fact which Denning, in his report, held to be "without foundation", but only because no evidence could be found in 1963 to substantiate it. Both the duke and the duchess subsequently admilted it was true.

The Duchess of Argyll herself was the only one of the 160 witnesses inter-

From the Reverend

From the Dean of Merton College, Oxford Sir, Everyone who has observed mob

Pilate and crucifixion

behaviour, personally or on television, should agree with Mrs Kathleen Jarvis (letter, March 16). What is incredible about a crowd of misguided demonstrators, with no right to speak for their nation, shouting "His blood be on us and on our children" (Matthew xxvii, 25)? Neither need we doubt that during the previous night, when Jesus was under arrest. St Peter bad called down a similar imprecation on himself. The Rock of Christendom, the future first bishop of Rome, "began to curse and to swear, saying "I know not the man" (Matthew xxvi, 74).

"Father, lorgive them, for they know not what they do", was the prayer of the crucified Jesus for those who had encompassed his death. St Paul never for a moment thought that either his fellow Jews or his fellow missionary St Peter would pass down a curse to their innocent successors. God, the compassionate, the merciful, must not be believed to endorse selfcursing or visit such curses on innocent successors.

Historians, and members of the Christian and Jewish faiths, feeling their way towards greater mutual understanding, need not jettison these well witnessed Gospel passages, for all the Gospel writer's fallibility.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS BRAUN (Tutor in Ancient History), Merton College, Oxford OXI 4JD. March 16.

Animal experiments

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, Scientists, with the help of genenic engineering, have at last succeeded in creating chicks with four legs (report, March 12, later editions). For years this has been seen as a means of making chickens more profitable - converting wings into legs which are more meaty. The present experiment at Harvard Medical School is said to be opening doors to understanding how vertebrate limbs acquire their identity, but it is sure to be taken up by vested interests scenting increased

Ethical questions cannot be ignored in this type of research.

Yours faithfully. JOANNE BOWER (Honorary Secretary). The Farm and Food Society 4 Willifield Way, NWII 7XT.

Phantom diner From Mr Danny Davis

Sir, Of course one would know if one were at dinner with the Chairman of the Invisibles (letters, March 16 and In. His title would be on the name card at the seat that appears to be empty. However, I would not wish to

be seated on his right. Yours faithfully. DANNY DAVIS. 30 King Georges Road, Bath BA2 IBJ. tive and forensic investigator. These qualities enabled him to set an ingenious trap for the witness in question and, with the help of the police, to establish beyond doubt that he was

viewed by Lord Denning who de-clined to visit him. Instead, with his

customary courtesy, he called on her at her London house, 48 Upper Gros-

Among the witnesses who did visit

Denning was the man he suspected of

being the headless figure in the photo-graphs. Lord Denning was more than

merely an outstanding judge. He had the razor-sharp mind of a great detec-

venor Street.

the man in the photographs. Denning was justifiably proud of this sleuthing and imposed no restrictions upon me with regard to it. Finally, may I correct some misconceptions in your earlier report on this matter (March 8)? The 11th Duke of Argyll did not cite 88 men in the divorce. He cited four, but believed he had grounds against marry more than

It is not correct to say that the duchess was "shunned by aristo-cratic society" after her divorce. On the contrary, she continued to visit every embassy in London, and ambassadors and members of the Royal Family, including Prince Michael of Kent, were among her dinner guests. Nor did she express a "wish to be buried at Inveraray Castle". The first clause of her last three wills stated: "I wish my body to be buried in accor-dance with the rites of the Roman Catholic Church in a cemetery as close as possible to Inveraray Castle regardless of its religious denomi-

To the great regret of many friends, some of ber executors and immediate heirs seem to have disregarded this clause, even though the Argyll and Bute District Council confirmed in writing that they would have been happy to accept the duchess, a Scot, for burial at Glenshira Cemetery, just outside inveraray, in accordance with her clearly expressed wishes.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL THORNTON, c/o Dinah Wiener Limited. 12 Cornwall Grove, W4 2LB. March 15.

David H. van Daalen

Sir. In New Testament times the High Priest, though he was supposed to be the spiritual leader of the Jews, was pointed by the Romans: and if he did not toe the line he could be re-

placed by someone more willing to co-

operate. So the tussle between Pilate and Caiaphas was not about whether Jesus was to be crucified, for it was not expedient for them to disagree on policy, but about who was to carry the can if awkward questions were to be asked in Rome about this judicial murder. No questions were asked in Rome, but later judgments on the two men have shown that Pilate was the more successful. II seems that the Barabbas incident helped him considerably in this.

Yours faithfully, D. H. van DAALEN, Shalom, 10 Sandwich Road, St Neots, Huntingdon PEI9 ITY.

From M. Maurice André

Sir, If Mr David H. Lewis (letter, March 13) really wants to be reas-sured as to the historicity of Jesus he may turn to the uncensored Talmud published in Israel (eg, the treatise Sanhedrin 43a), or even to the current version of Sota 47a, where it is written: "He practised witchcraft, seduced Israel and led her astray and to transgression", or again, to the collected Toledoth Yeshuh.

Yours faithfully. M. ANDRE, 37 Avenue de la République, F-92120 Montrouge, France. March 15.

Gainsborough portrait

From the Director of the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

Sir. Museums throughout the land will share Elisabeth Bartlett's concern (letter, March 12) that Mariborough College's plan to sell its Gainsborough portrait may discourage donations to deserving institutions. Donors, however, may rest assured

that most museums, certainly those within the Museums & Galleries Commission's registration scheme. numbering some 1.700, abide by codes of practice, which declare "a strong presumption against the disposal of anything from a museum collection"; where a disposal does occur, museums agree to offer the object to another registered museum, thereby guaranteeing its retention within the public domain.

Other institutions would do well to follow this example if they are to retain the confidence of donors.

Yours faithfully. PETER SAUNDERS, Director, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The King's House, 65 The Close. Salisbury, Wiltshire SPI 2EN. March 12.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

First-class trip for 'working-class lad'

From the National Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and others

Sir, Some Bridsh newspapers including your own have sneered at the Deputy Prime Minister's recent visit to India (report, March 16). This was in stark contrast to reporting in India. where The Times of India said the visit marked a "thaw" in relations

between our two nations. We were members of the trade delegation that accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister to promote environmental technology. In a demanding schedule of high-level government and trade meetings, our discussions proved particularly fruitful. We met eight government ministers, key civil servants, as well as business and community leaders in New Delhi and

Mumbai (Bombay, as was). We joined Mr Prescott at a meeting with the CII — the Indian equivalent of the CBI. We feel that real progress has been made towards helping India tackle environmental problems, and at the same time improving and developing trade links between India and British industry.

This was a very successful visit which has helped to promote the transfer of technology and strengthen the important links between our two countries.

JIM MOWATT. National Secretary, TGWU, KEITH CLARKE. TONY ECKFORD. Managing Director, Anglian Water. DAVID JEFFERY. Chief Executive,

· Port of London Authority. STEVEN MARSHALL General Manager, Business Development The National Grid Company, TGWU.

16 Palace Street, Victoria SWIE 5JD. March 17.

From Mr Daljit Sehbai

Sir, Your report today on John Presconts "high-level" trip to India is tendenoous in tone and totally unjustified and unreasonable in content.

What is wrong with the Deputy Prime Minister of this great and pros-

perous country travelling first-class? Why should John Prescott have refused the offer of his hosts, the indian Government, to fly him to Agra for his visit to Taj Mahal, a great historical monument in serious dan-

ger owing to environmental pollution? Mr Prescott, according to your own account, had booked himself into a E173-per-night hotel room like the rest of the official party. He was upgraded to the Presidencial suite by the hotel management, who felt honoured to have Britain's Deputy Prime Minister as their guest. It did not cost the British taxpayer a penny more.

Yours faithfully. DALJIT SEHBAI. Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, SWIY 5EW. March 16.

From Mr George Stern

Sir. Speaking from one of his trips using Rolls-Royces, first-class air travel and E1.000+ per day hotel accommodation, John Prescott tells us that he is only a "working-class lad". He is also the minister responsible for public transport in London which is used by people just as working-class as Mr Prescott. These are forced to use perhaps the filthiest and most unreliable bus and Tube system of any Western European capital, and with fares among the highest in the

world. Mr Prescott should try the transport that the rest of us have to use. Then, maybe, he would see a case for upgrading us.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE STERN, 6 Eton Court, 6 Shepherds Hill. N6 5AF. March 16.

Tango revival

From Professor Eric Moonman

Sir. Ruth Gledhill described the rebirth of the tango in a number of countries (report, March 11).

However, the single most important event is not in Buenos Aires or Paris, but in Finland, Each year a world festival and competitions take place in Seinajoki during July. Tens of thousands come to dance and to elect their champions. On my last visit in 1998 there was an enormous increase in the number of Brits, but they all complained that there was a shortage of tango teachers here.

Yours sincerely. ERIC MOONMAN, I Beacon Hill, N7 9LY. March 15.

Sign of spring

From Mr H. Sutherland Pilch

Sir. I was walking down King William Street in the City yesterday and I saw a bare navel for the first time this year. Surely these days this is a better harbinger of spring than the cuckoo?

Yours faithfully. H. SUTHERLAND PILCH. Spring Cottage, Gay Street Lane Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2HN.

1t is

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 18: His Excellency Mr Khemaies Jhinaoui was received in audience by The Oueen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Tunisia to the Court of St

His Excellency was accompa-nied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Habih Miled (Counsellor), Mr Khaled El Fendri (Counsellor), Mr Kais Darraji (Counsellor), Mr Hosni Hamada (Artaché). Mr Tahar Kricha (Attaché), Mr Rachid Trabelsi (At-taché) and Mr Ali Jomni (Attaché). Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was

present. Mrs Sihem Jhinaoui was also received by The Queen. The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Green Jackets, received Lieutenant General Sir Christopher Wallace upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant of The 2nd Battalion and Major General Andrew Pringle

upon assuming the appointment.

The Honourable Mr Justice Burton was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Lady Hunt was received by The Oueen today and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by her husband, the late Lord Hunt,

By command of The Queen. Vice Admiral Sir James Weather-ali (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Vassilis S. Zafiropoulos. Sl Upper Brook Street, London WI. this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador of Greece to the Court of St James's.

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant General Sir Richard Swinburn at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of The Duke of Rutland which was held in the Guards Chapel. Wellington Barracks, London, today, The Princess Margaret, Coun-

Royal engagement

The Queen will present a new Sovereign's Banner to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at Buckingham Palace at 11.45.

England and the Dean of Bristol were present at a lecture given for the Society by Mr Roger Laughton. Chief Executive Officer of United Broadcasting & Entertainment, at the University of the West of Mr St John Hartnell, Chairman of the Society, presided and Mr Louis Sherwood, Chairman HTV West, gave a vote of thanks. HTV West were the hosts at a supper held afterwards.

Duchy of Cornwall Mr Robin Broadhurst has been appointed a member of The

tess of Snowdon was represented by Lady Penn.
Princess Alice, Duchess of

Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon Bland. Prince Michael of Kent was

represented by the Lord Carrington, KG. Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Oxilvy was represented by Colonel Shaun Longsdon. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature -WWF International today carried out Field Visits in South East Cameroon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 18: The Prince of Wales, President, The Phoenix Trust, this morning chaired the Trust's Board His Royal Highness, President,

The Prince's Trust, and Patron, The British Institute of Florence, this evening attended the film premiere Tea with Mussolini at the Empire, Leicester Square,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 18: The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, today visited the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps at Linton Military

Her Royal Highness this after-noon left New Zealand for London. STJAMES'S PALACE March 18: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan W. Waterworth, JP).

His Royal Highness then visited Company Laint Company Company (Company)

Cammell Laird Shipyard, Camp-beltown Road, Birkenhead. The Duke of Kent today officially opened The Laird Foundation, Birkenhead.

His Royal Highness this after-

noon visited Birkenhead Priory. Priory Street. Birkenhead The Duke of Kent then visited R S Clare & Co Ltd, 8-14 Stanhope

S Clare & Co Liu, 6-14 Standards
Street, Liverpool.
His Royal Highness then officially opened the Bonner Building of
Contract Chemicals Ltd, Penrhyn
Road, Knowsley Business Park,
Prescot, Merseyside.

Birthdays today

Lecture

The Bristol Society
The Lord Mayor of Bristol, the
Bishop of Bristol, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of

Prince's Council of the duchy.

Mr Duncan Bluck, former chair-Mr Duncan Bluck, former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 72: Sir Nigel Broomfield, former diplomat, 80: Miss Glenn Close, actress, 52: Lady Georgina Coleridge, 83: Dr J.O. Davles, former Director, Polytechnic of Wales, 70; Professor Ronald Girdwood, former President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 82: the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, former Bishop of Portsmouth, 72: Sir Ernest Hall, pianist, composer and property

rorismouth, 72: Sir Ernest Hall, planist, composer and property developer, 69; Professor Sir Peter Hall, FBA. planner, 67: Viscount Hill, 65: Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, 66: Sir David Lumsden, former Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 71: Mr Patrick Mcof Music, 71: Mr Fatrick Me-Goohan, actor, 71: Sir Peter Mase-field, aviation expert, 85; the Earl of Morton, 72: Mr David Nichol-son, rucehorse trainer, 60: Lord Plant of Highlield, 54: Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Reay, 74: Mr Philip Roth, author, 66: Mr Percival G. Sutton, former chairman, the Press Club, 83; Mr Duncan Weldon, theatre producer, 58; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 44; Mr William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill

Service dinners

HMS Co. Rear-Admiral John Trewby, Chief Executive Naval Bases and Supply/ Chief Naval Engineer Officer, was the guest of honour at a dinner beld last night on bourd HMS Collingwood.

The Anchorites Surgeon Rear-Admiral Frank Golden was the principal guest at a dinner of the Anchorites held last night on board HQS Wellington.

ship: O.M. Sprague, Dulwich College, II. Bainbridge Scholarships: D.J. Diamond. Dulwich College; M.C. Marshall, Elmburst Preparatory School: R.T. Williams, Rosemend Preparatory School. D.C. Banter Scholarships: T.A. Hasthemi, The Hall School, Winshiedon; R.E.M. Sanders Hewert, Believille Primary School; D.L.J. Thomas, Rose-mend Preparatory School; A.W.R. Virgo, Delwich College; J.M. Wiston, Dulwich College. J.M. Wiston, Dulwich College.

J.M. Wisson, Dolwich College,
Lorraine Wilson Menorial Scholarships:
C.M.G. Baugh, Highfield School: S.J.
Clarice, St David's College, L.R. Cutter, The
Roche School: M.W. Engel, St David's
College, M.J. Harris, Ehrbarnt Preparatory
School: R.M. Mollog, Henralman Primary
School: C.W.E. Stark, St Michael's C of E
School: S. Tavares, Elmbarst Preparatory
School: S. Tavares, S. School: S. School: S. School:

Kate Russell, creator and co-ordinator of the Leeds Millennium Tapestry, with a selection of the tapestry's panels

which were on show yesterday at Harewood House. When completed, the 84ft x 8ft tapestry will be larger than the Bayeux Tapestry and will cover the whole range of life in Leeds. It will have cost more than £300,000, and will have taken tens of thousands of bours' work and millions of stitches.

The Assam Valley School, India The Governors of The Assam Valley School, India, announce the appointment of Mr Leslie Fox. Second Master of Yarm School, as Headmaster from July 1999, to succeed the founding Headmaster. Mr Paul Carling.

School news

Dulwich College Dulwich College announces the following awards:

School, Art Scholarships: R.R. Braude, Dulwich College Preparatory School; A.R. Shaw, Dulwich College. Sir Joseph Bagaigene Technology Scholarship Stralagene

The Royal Artillery spring dinner

Fundamen Primary School; J.J. Bubb-Humfres, Highfield Juner School; D.F. Demelly, Edwards House (FKS School) Felsech T.J.P. Stewart, Ealen Square Prepar-ancy School; K-L.R. Tang-Wrighs, Downs-view Primary School.

W.E. Grey Scholarships: N. Ann

as held last night at the Roy Artillery Mess, Woolwich, Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park. presided. Among those present were:

Were:
Viscount Ridley, K.G., and Viscounters
Ridley, General Str John and Lady Stilhton,
Brigsdier-General J Schneider, Major-General
and Mrs J A J P Barr, Major-General
Leo J Bauter, Major-General and Mrs R H
G Ruhon, the Mayor and Mayores of
Greenwich, Mr and Mrs Charles Barrington and Mrs and Mrs Charles Waizefield.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of London The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of City Livery Compa-nies and their escorts, the Sheriffs. Members of the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts. The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speak-ers, Among others present were The Bishop of Rochester and Mrs Nazir-Ali. Sir Peter Studt, Mrs Michael Bull, Sir Murray Fox, Miss Christine Fox, Sir Anthony and Lady Idilile and the Master and Mistress Cutter in Hallamshire.

Old Mancapians Association The Chinese Ambassador was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Old Mancunians Association, London section, held last night at Dartmouth House. Mr K.M. Robbie presided.

Association of London Clubs Viscount Thurso was the guest of bocour at the annual dinner of the Association of London Clubs held last night at the National Liberal Club. Mr Graham Snell, chairman of the association, presided. Lord Bramall, KG, the Hon Manrice Robson, Sir Richard Brooke, Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, Commodere Ian Pemberton and Air Vice-Marshal Keith Filbey

were among those present. The Highland Society of London The President of The Highland The President of The Highland Society of London. Mr Malcobn Innes, presided at the annual dinner held at the Caledonian Club on March 17. Admiral Sir Jock Slater proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie and all

Scotsmen who have died in defence of their country. Chester Business Club

Mr John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at a dimer of the Chester Business Club held last night at the Abbots Well Hotel, Chester. Mr Martin Seed, chairman, presided. Mr Tom Hunt, vice-president, and Mr Bob Clough-Parker, secretary, also spoke.

Durham University Sir Robert May. Chief Scientific Adviser to Her Majesty's Government, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of Durham University Society of Pellows held last might at the College of St. 1774 night at the College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham. Professor Michael Prestwich, president of the society, was the host. The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham attended. The Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University, the Dean of Durham and the Chairman of Northumbrian Water were among the guests.

Public Management and Policy Association Mr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cubinet Office, and Professor Robert Worcester, Chairman of MORI, were the speakers at a lecture organised by the Public Management and Policy Association and sponsored by the Char-tered Institute of Public Finance

and Accountancy held on Wednes-day evening at 1 Great George Street, London SWI. Mr Peter Kellner presided. University news Oxford

The Edoo Law Scholarship for 1999 has been awarded to Colin Thomann, Mansfield College.

Memorial service

The Duke of Rutland The Queen was represented by Licutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn at a memorial service for the Duke of Rutland held yesterday in the Guards Chapel. Wellington Barracks.

ASADOUR GUZELIA

Princess Margaret was represented by Lady Penn, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Si-mon Bland, Prince Michael of Kent by Lord Carrington, KG, CH, and Princess Alexandra by Colonel

Shaun Longsdon.
The Rev Leslie Bryan, Chaplain to the Household Division, officiated, assisted by the Rev E.R. Urquhart, Vicar of Bakewell, Derbyshire, Canon A. Clayton, Chapiain of Belvoir, and the Very Rev Derek N. Hole, Provost of Leices-

ter. Lord Edward Manners, son, read the lesson and the Duke of Rutland, son, read I Said to the Rutland, son, fean I Said to the Man at the Gate of the Year by Minnie Louise Haskins. Lord Charteris of Amisfield gave an address. Lieutenant-Colonel C.J.E. Seymour, Regimental Adjutant, represented the Grenadier County Among others presented. Guards. Among others present

Wetter
Frances Duchess of Rusiand (widow), Lady
Charlotte Manners (daughar), Dr John
and Lady Teresa Chipman (son-haw and
daughar), the Duchess of Rusiand (daugharth-law), Lord John Manners (trother).
Lord and Lady Roger Manners (trother).
Lord and Lady Roger Manners (trother).
Lord and Lady Roger Manners (trother).
Lord and siser-in-law), Lady Urusia DrAbo and
Lady Isobel Throckmorton (islaers). Mr
and Mrs Henry DrAbo, the Marchioness
of Donfierin and Awa Mr William Guinness, Miss Phoche Manners, Mr and Mrs
Peveril Manners, Miss Lucy Manners, the
Hon John and Mrs Ramsay, Mr and Mrs
Brian Sweeny.

The Duft of Welfington, Anne Duchess
of Rusiand, the Duchess of Marihorough.
Elizabeth Duchess of Marihorough,
Elizabeth Duchess of Northumberland,
the Marchlomess of Cholmondeley, the
Marquess of Salisbury, the Countess of
Caledon, the Countess of Darumonth, the
Earl and Countess of Obstronough, the
Earl and Countess of Obstronough, the
Earl and Countess of Obstronough, the
Earl and Countess of Obstronough,
the Marchlomess of Wilton, Viscount
Canborne, Maria Carmela Viscountess
Manneledon, Katharine Viscountess Macmillan of Owenden, Lady Edno, AnneLody Elion, Lord and Lady Hoto, Lord and
Lady King of Wastrueby, Baroness Ruwilady King of Wastrueby, Baroness Ruwilady Lady Annele Lindsay, the Hon
Donndric Eliot, the Hon David Macmillan, the Hon Mrs Sharples, the Hon Mrs
Wilsonghby de Eresty, Lady Etones, AnneLoyd, Lady Annele Lindsay, the Hon
Donndric Eliot, the Hon David Macmillan, the Hon Mrs Sharples, the Hon Mrs
Mrs Charles Suith, Migro Devid and Lady
Willa Charlotto, Suith, Sr Benghain Stade,
Sr Beresby Silwell, Sr Benghain Stade,
Nr Richard Adsms, Mr David Anderson, Mr Alena Duchess and Lady Knighed,
Sr Beresby Silwell, Mr and the Hon Mrs
Michael Brand, Contentes Esseriaus,
Mr Richard Adsms, Mr David Anderson, Mr Alena Duchess Mr David Anderson, Mr Alena Pavidelines-Wylethun-

The College of Law The Governors of The College of Law have appointed Mr Rodger Panagon to be their Chairman in

Legal appointments Mr Roger Venne has been appointed the first Head of the Civil Appeals Office to support the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Mr John Adams, former Registrar of Civil Appeals, has been promot-ed to the Circuit Bench and is now based at Barnet.

Forthcoming marriages

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Mr P.F. Barton and Miss D.L. Spearing The engagement is announced between Piers Fitzgerald, second son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Burton, of Woeful Lake House, Sherborne. Gloucestershire, and Debbie Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Spearing, of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Mr S.G. Dobbie

and Miss H.A.McK. Cox The engagement is announced between Stewart Geoffrey, younger son of Mr and Mrs Graham Dobbie, of Hartree, Peeblesshire. and Helen Ann McKay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cox. of Duddington, Northamptonshire. Wing Communder M.V. Godfrey and Ms R.A. Radford

The engagement is announced between Malcolm Victor, son of between Malcoim Yerox, son or Mr Desmond Godfrey and the late Mrs Godfrey, of Long Bennington, Notinghamshire, and Rosemary Ann, youngest daughter of Alderman Major James and Mrs Buckee, of Kingswood, Bristol.

Mr J. Gore-Booth and Miss A.M. McConnell The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Sir David Gore-Booth, of London, and Mrs Jilli Forescue, née Valpy, of Majorca, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter McConnell, of Jamaica.

Dr LE. James and Dr K.M.H. Moore The engagement is announced between Laurence, elder son of Mr and Mrs Roger James, of London, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Moore, of

Grindleford, Derbyshire. Mr J.L. Lawson and Miss M.R. Young The engagement is announced between Justin, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Lawson, of Hurley Berkshire, and Melanie, elde daughter of Mr and Mrs David Young, of Ashdon, near Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr R. Raynor and Miss C. Heighway The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs William Raynor, of Chester, and Claire, second daughter of Mrs Anne-Marie Heighway, of Bray, and Mr John Heighway, of Windsor.

Mr B.R. Wyldbore-Smith and Miss P.S.M. Scott The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Major-General Sir Brian and the Hon Lady Wyldbore-Smith, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and Philippa, daughter of the late Mr Peter J.M. Scott and of Mrs Scott, of Roydon, Essex.

Mr M.E. Young and Miss C.J.S. Scopes The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony Young, of Kingswindford, West Mirlands, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and (Mrs. Herman Scopes, of Wargrave, Berkshipp.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: David Livingstone, explorer, Low Biantyre, Lanarkshire, 1813: Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Torquay, 1821; Sergei Diaghilev, impresario, Novgorod, Russia, 1872; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Chester, 1876. DEATHS: Arthur James Balfour, Ist Earl of Balfour, Prime Minister 1902-05, Woking, Surrey, 1930; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist, Encino, California, 1950. According to Ptolemy, the Babylonians observed the first recorded eclipse, 721BC.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

God did not call us to live in immorality, but in ho-liness. 1 Thessalonians 4.7 (GNB).

BIRTHS

BERGER - On the Ides of March 1999, to Domini ond Jano, o beautiful son, Sebastian Gabriel Sea, a brother for Kieron-Blue. BRODERICK - On 14th March 1999, to Joanne (nde Matt) and Sandy, a beautiful aon, Hamish William Masson, 9bs loz, A brother and playmate for

CHANCELLOR - On 11th March 1999 in Sydney, Australia, to Camilla (nés Morgani and Andrew daughter, Poppy Esn COSTELETOS - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, 10 Katerina (née Flengat and Philippe, o daughter, Marianna.

DORRELL - On March 11th to Annette and Stephen, a son, Christopher George Robert, a brother for Alexandra, Philip and

MALLIWELL - On 4th March at Clifton, to Vicky ince Brich) and Toby, a son, Charles Thomas (Charlie). HOWARD - On Friday March 12th 1999 to Helen too Garlickt and Richard, a daughter, Lillian Hope, a sister for Unity and William.

PANDERI - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Sujata and Samir, a soo. Shaan, a brother for

LAWRENCE - On Morch 4th 1999, to Kathryn (née Chessun) and Mark, a son. Thomas Henry William, a brother for Eleanor and

LENTON - On March 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Paula and James, a daughter, Chloe Rose, a sister for Kezia Angel

LONGDEN - On March 9th, to Joanna (née Seymourt and Mark, a daughter, Lara, a sister for Tatiana and Johnny. MASTERTON - On 17th March, lo Winchester, to Caroline (oée Mayfield) and James, a son, a brothe for Eliza and Sophle.

BIRTHS EDDEX - Gleon and Jane are pleased to annount the birth of their son Ethan Robert on 13th March 1999, 61bs 5oz.

ROSEVEARE - On March 12th at the RHCH, Winchester, to Nicola and Christopher, a son, Matthew Joseph. ROTHSCHLD - On 18th March, to Sarah (née Pelcener) and Christopher a daughter, Leah Natusha Calypso.

SEAMAN - On Tuesday March 16th 1998 to Annabel tnée Price) and Julian, a son, Wilfrid William.

SILCOCK - On March 10th 1999 at Chekenham Hospital to Emma (née Williams) and Paul, a daughter, Rachel. TREW - On Wodnesday March 3rd 1999 at Faraborough Hospital, Kent, to Juliet (née Thompsont and David, beantiful twin daughtera, Izobel Anna and Elsanor Dalay.

WATSON - On March 16th 1999, at home, to Annabel Inée Scott) and Diiver, a daughter, Isabella Amelia Rose.

Brisbane, Australia to Lucinda Inée Dobbint and Paul, a son, Charles William. MHITE - On March 18th in

WHITESIDE – On March 15th, to Amanda (née Johnson)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YOUNG - Leslie Terence. The family of the late Terry Young who fell asleep suddenly 27th Fehruary 1999 would like to thank 1999 would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy, floral tributes and cards sent to us at our sed and sudden loss of a dear husband, ded and grandad. Special thanks to our families. Maureen Young and family. DEATHS

SEVERIDGE - On 17th March 1999 the Reverend Wilbert Esler (Bill) MA M.Litz.

23rd March at 11.15 am, followed by cremation at Poole. No flowers, but donations if desired to the Childrens Society c/o George Scott, Funeral Directors, 13-15 Somerset Road, Bournetmouth, BH7 Road, Bournemouth, BH7 6JH. Tel: 01202 395827.

BISHOP - Suddenly at Raigmore Hospital. Inverness, on 12th March 1999, Raymond Charles Bishop A.C.P. aged 81. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Private fumeral has taken place.

CAMPBELL - Dr. Margaret Olivia Noel Campbell, Historian and one of the founding staff of Gordonstoon School, Died rounning state of Cordonaston School. Disc peacefully 15th March 1898 Edinburgh, Beloved wife of the late Keir A. Campbell DSO and mother of Diarmid, Felicity, Oran and Mary, beloved aunt of Hugh, Robin and David Campbell Byatt, Funeral at St John's Cathedral, Oban, I pm Saturday 20th March, Memorial Service in Edinburgh to be announced later. Pamily flowers only.

CRAWFORTH - Felicity Ann 106e Chittenden) peacefully at home on 17th March. Beloved wife of Bill and mother of David and Emma. Funeral Bill and mother of David and Emma. Funeral Service at St Mary's. Guildford on Wednesday 24th March at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations may be made to imperial Cancer Research Fund.

GODDARD - Gordon. On 12th
March suddenly at the
home of his daughter.
Beloved husband of
Brenda, adored father of
Beverley and Roger,
father-in-law of Jesper
and Melanie and moch
loved Grandpa of Marcus,
Rachel, Christopher,
Oliver and Lucy. Funeral
Service at Besingstoke
Crematorium on 24th Loving husband of Ena, caring father of Martin, lan and Joan and grandfather of Alistair. Funeral Service at St James' Poksedown. Bournemouth on Tuesda 23rd March at 11.15 am, colleged by cremition at Service at Busingstohe Crematorium on 24th March at 13 noon. Family flowers only, donations if wished to British Heart Foundation c/o Jon Steel & Son, 6 Cheell Street, Winchester.

GOLDER - Arthur Reginald (George), born 1921, peacefully at home on March 16th Funeral service 3.00pm, Tuesday 23rd March at Mertlake Cramatorium, Family flowers or donations to preferred charity to T.H. Senders and Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, 0181 948 1551.

GRIFFITHS - On 17th March 1999, pescefully at Worthing, Beryl Irene, aged 101. Widow of Air Commodore J Swire Griffiths and beloved mother of Pauline and Sheils. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Findou Valley on Thursday 25th March at 1.45pm followed by committed at Worthing Crematorium at 2.40pm. No flowers please but, if desired, donations to The Chastnut Tree House (Worthing Childrens Hospice Project) may be

Hospice Project) may be 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, 01903 234516.

CRIFFITHS - Annie GREPHINS - Annie
Devidson, on Tuesday 16th
March 1991 aged 79 years.
Mother of Linda Harrison
and grandmother of
Edward. Funeral Service
in Landbesch Beptits
Church on Monday 29th
March at 11 am followed March at 11 am tonowed hy privata cremation. Donations to "Arthur Rank House" c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

HARPER - Brigadier John
James Harper, MBE, MA,
JP, DL, on 18th March
1993, aged 91. Beloved
husband of Bobbia, darry
loved father of Susan and
William and much loved
grandfather and great
grandfather. Former
Headmaster of Tiffin
School, 1947-1972. Service
at St Barnabes Church,
Rammore at 3.30pm on
Thursday 25th March after
a private cremation. There
will be a Memorial Service
at Ringston Parish Church
on a date to be announced.
Family Howers only, but
donations, if dealred for
Imperial Camoer Research
Fund may be sent to
Sharlock and Sons, Trellis
House, Dorking, RH4 2ES.

HEDLEY - Pescefully on March 17th 1999 Katharine Mary of Barham after an illness borns with great courag Beloved with of the late Tim Hedley, much loved mother of Charlotte (Loyd), Simon and I Also a greatly loved Alto a greatly loved grandmother.
Thanksgiving Service at Barbam Church on Monday March Zand at 12 noon, preceded by a private family service at Lympas Churchyard.
Family Howers only, but douations if desired to RUEBA via CW. Lyons, 70 bullitary Road, Canterbury CTI 1ND.

HERON - Edward (Ned)
pescefully on 13th March
1999 aged 86. Funeral at 51
Bartholomews, Ryds,
Winchester at 2pm on
Thursday 25th March
Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to
Brendoncare (co Steel &
Sons, 6 Chosil Street,
Winchester SO23 0HU.

POOGSON - Betty Alice pescafully in Torbey Hospital on 13th March 1999 aged 77 years. Funeral Service 2.15pm Friday March 26th at Oxford Cramatorium. Flowers to Surman and Horwood Funeral Service HUMPHREY - John Scott died on 8th March. The funeral has talent pince in France. A service in his memory will be at Frinten Free Church, Counaught Avenue. Frinten-on-Ses. Essex on Thursday 25th March at 11 zm. Donations, if desired to Countryside Alliance.

LLOYD - On 17th Merch, pescefully at University College Hospital, Rachel Dilya, wife of the late David Harbert Lipyd and mother of Lipyd and Huw. Service at the West Chapel, Golders Green Crematerium, 200 pm Wednesday 24th Merch. Friends and neighbours welcome. Flowers or donations to be sent to Leverton and Soun, 212 Eversholl Street, London NW1. Denations to be made out to The University College Hospital Special Trustees.

MANTLE - Gwen died 18th
March 1999 at Robinson
Home Bristol, aged 22,
widow of Philip Mantle
CMG, much loved mother
to Pat Curtis and John
Mantle, grandmother
Mantle, grandmother
Funeral arrangements
cramstion at South Bristol
on Wednesday March 24th
at 11.30sm. Flowers to Cooperative Funeral Service,
513 Wells Road, Hengrova

MARSTON - Anthony David.
On 18th March in France suddenly whilst aid-ing with his Lamily and friends. Cherished husband of Anne, beloved father of Caroline, James and Lucy and adored grandfather of Joshus, Barnabas and Eleanor.
Long time Chairman of Marston Hotels, recent Chairman of Best Western U.K. and in his Presidential year of Hythe

U.K. and in his Presidential year of Hythe Rotary Club. Funeral strangements to be advised - please phone 01303 262762. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Rotary Club of Hythe for its monimated charities c/o Anne Marston, Marston Hotels, The Mews, Hythe, Kent C121 6AC.

METCALFE - David Bruce, suddenly at home on 17th March 1899 aged 77. Destry loved by Felicity and by Seveny Joursthan, Pipps, Simon, Toby and all his family. He was so proud of his eight grandchildren. A loving brether of Fenelope Hale. Served with The Gioucestershire Regt and The Corps of Queens's Messengers. Family funeral on Seturday 20th March 1010wed by a Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, Gios on Thursday 15th April at 3.00pm. Enquiries to Philip Ford & Son.

MEDOLETON - Sir Lawrence Mosck, 10th Bt., 15th March 1999 pescafully at home. Ecquiries c/o Forsey and Son (01458) 272297.

Thanksgiving service on Tuesday 11th May 1998 at St Michaella, Chester Square, 5WL at 11.30 am. All friends invited.

PADEM - Valeris Justine on 16th March 1399, suddenly and tragically at her home in Peel, ists of Man, aged 34. Formserly of Pretwich, Manchester, Midwife at Nobles Hospital, Dougles, Formerly with Royal Bank of Scotland, Islington, Precious daughter of John and Linda, and sinter of Elisabeth, Part St Mary, 1sie of Man. Requirem mass being arranged: Enquiries (1624 813114.

SCOTT-Fulwell,
Sunderland, Pascefully in
hospital after a long
filness, borne brawely on
March 16th, aged 76 years,
Frank, Member of FOS 265
Mess, Very dear and
beloved husband of Hanel,
very much loved father of
Marllyn, Keith and
Michelle, dearest father
in-law of Andy and Betty,
loving Grandpa of
Cameron, Francesca,
Austen and Alister,
dearest brother of Jean,
Marina and the late Joyce,
also a dear brother-in-law.
Would friends please meet
for Service at Sunderland
Crematorium on Tuesday
Mann 2 and the Millist Sawith - Dorothy died peacefully at home, as abe lived, with her family. Wile of Charles, mother of Nicholas, Caroline and Flonz, and grandmother of Emily, Funeral service at St Michael's, Chester Square, SW, on Friday 28th March 1999 at 230 pm for family and close themes, Family Howers only hut donations, if desired, to Action against Breast Cancer, CZ Culham Science Cantre, Oxfordshire OXI4 30B. Thanksglying service on for Service at Sunderland Crematorium on Tuesday March 22rd at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research, c/o The Manager, Lloyds Bank, See Road, Fulwell, Sunderland. Enquiries to CW 7-15 Eveneral

> SLOMAN - William Owen
> M.B.E. of Cottenham
> passed away peacefully on
> Monday March 15th 1999
> aged 71 years. Funeral
> Service at Cambridge City
> Crematorium West Chapel
> on Thursday March 25th
> 1999 at 130 pm. Family
> flowers only. Donations if
> desired to R.N.L.I. on the
> day or c/o Willingham day or c/o Willingham Funeral Sarvice, Berrycroft, Willingham, Camba, CB4 SIX.

ROBINSON - Dr. John
Sharborne, husband of
Melinda, father of David
and Charles, died aged 84
on Merch 10th after a
short illiness. Funeral
Service at St Mary's
Church, Kensing, Kent on
Wednesday 24th March.
Pamily Howers only
piesse, donations to the
Royai London Society for
the Bilnd or charity of
thoice, All enquiries to W.
Hodges, 89 Bt Johns Hill,
Sevenoeles, tel: 101732)
454457. SAMSTER – Richard Thigh-Bethune Sangster, of Calgary, Albertz, Canada, passed sway in his sleep after a great shi trip with old friends on March 6th. 1999. Dearly beloved husband and best friend of Hazel; loving and much loved father of Claire, Anna and Malcolm; precious son of Robert and

Schoerund. Enquires to CW Tait Funeral Directors, 48 Roker Avenue. Tel 0191 510 2944. Frank will be very sadly missed by all.

1948, brought up in Scotland and East Africa, Hugh was educated at Merchiston Castle School and Edinburgh University graduating with an Honore Degree in Civil Engineering. He emigrated to Canada in 1970, pursuing a career in the Canadian energy field. At the time of his death, he was President of Enbridge International Inc. and Enbridge Technology Inc. Caring friend to so many, old and young, across the world, considerate oclieagus, committed volunteer, and above all, wonderful Isher and husband. He will be desparately missed. A Memorial Service to Celebrate Hugh's Life will be held at Riverview United Church (824 Imporial Way S.W.) on Friday, March 12th, 1999 at 2.00 pm. with the Rev. Rits M. Cattell officiating. If friends so desire, memorial tributes can be made directly to the Hospice Calgary Association, #300, 628-12 Avenue, S.W., Calgary, AB T2R GRG, and/or the Calgary Opera Association, #500, 628-12 Avenue, S.W., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1252 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G SC3 (on whose boards Hugh worked trelessly) and/or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, a Holloway Funnaral Hounes, Park Memorial Chapel 5008 Elsow Drive S.W., Calgary, Telephone: (403 242–8200.

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March, suddenly at home in Holland, after a long illness so bravely borne, Michael John Tunnicliffe, aged 59, much loved hasband of Rosemary and father of James and Kate. Funeral Mass at St Helen's Church, Westellif on Sea at 9 am on Tuesday 23rd March, followed by creanation at Southend on Sea Creanatorium. Plowers to the church, or donations to Amusey International. Enquiries to F.P. Guiver & Sons Ltd; 01702 467426. SANGSTER - Richard "Hugh" and Malcoim; oue son of Robert and precious son of Robert and Una Sangster of Edinburgh, Scotland; son-in-law of the late Alestair and Putal Brown of Striing, Scotland, Born in Scotland on March 26th, 1446 brusht m in

> WILLS - On March 16th walfs-On March 16th suddenly after a long illness, Frank, 51 formerly of the ITC. Funeral zervice on March 24th at St. Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, N2 at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations to Eden Hall Marie Curie Centre, c/o Levertm and Sons Ltd, 0181 444 5753.

> > U

Wilson: Barbara (née
Porter). Peacefully at
Americary Abbey Nutving
Home, Witshire on 18th
March in her Sird year.
Widow of Col. Dougles
Thorburn, DSO, OBE, MC,
Highland Light Infantry
and of Col. Alan Wilson,
OBE, MC Royal Engineers.
Late of Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire, her
birthplace and home for
many years. Greatly loved
mother of Elizabeth birthplace and home for many years. Greatly loyed mother of Elizabeth (Dickins) and Robin, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of seven and great-grandmother to her extended family of Cierachs and Wilsons. Shewill be greatly missed. Funeral Service at St. Peter's, Berkhemsted at 11.00cm, Friday 26th March, thereafter private committal at Chillens Crematorium. Family flowers only piesse. Crematorium. Family
flowers only please.
Donations if desired to
British Red Cross, c/oMalcoim Jones and
Motcolfe, 294 High Street.
Berkhamsted Tel 01443

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OBITUARIES

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Rod Hull, entertainer, died after a fall from a ladder on March 17 aged 63. He was born on August 13, 1935.

IN HARNESS with his abnate but aggressive glove pupper Emu. Rod Hull made himself a fairly effortless career as television's most fa-mous irritant. The victims of this ill-behaved pair were legion, since neither was any respecter of persons. Thus, when Emu met the Queen Mother at a Royal Variety show in 1972 he proceeded to browse on her bouquet. Her Majesty bore the imposition with equanimity.

The most notorious occasion on which Hull and Emu made one of the great and good lose his rag was the day they set

Harry Callahan, American

photographer and teacher, died on March 15 aged 86.

He was born in Detroit on October 22, 1912.

of indignation among British

critics. Why were there so few

photographers of comparable

merit in Britain when the

same period had produced a

surfeit of American talent?

that British photography had

... Apart from his work, which

was widely shown following

hugely influential teacher. In

1946 Arthur Siegel invited him

to join Laszló Moholy-Nagy's New Bauhaus at the Institute of Design in Chicago, where

he teamed up with the Ab-

stract Expressionist photogra-pher Aaron Siskind. He taught there until 1961, when

he left to found a photography department at the Rhode Is-

land School of Design in Providence. Many of the suc-

ceeding generation of Ameri-can artist photographers at-

Michigan State University. In

1930 he began work for Chrys-

ler Motors in Detroit. He was

aslow starter in photography.

which he took up as a hobby in

1938 and which came as the

answer to a long search for something to believe in". He

worked briefly in the photogra-

phy laboratories of General Motors before meetings with

Ansel Adams and Alfred Stieg-

6 MATIONS WORLD CLIP HELTENSIAN

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experiment.

One plausible answer was

no Harry Callahan.

about Michael Parkinson on the great man's own chat show. The air on the set was perilcusty close to turning blue as Emu first developed an unhealthy obsession with the regions below the waist-band of Parkinson's trousers, then proceeded to wrestle the chat show host to the ground and finally ate his shoe.

Hull and his psychopathic puppet were totally unrepentant. Their behaviour was, after all, par for the course. Parkinson was rucivi but magnanimous in discomfiture: "The only thing I'll ever be remembered for is being attacked by that **** Emu," he said later he said later.

Rod Hull was born on the Isle of Sheppey where by all accounts he grew up a painfully shy child with a stammer.

To cure himself he joined a local concert party at 15. But a showbusiness career did not blossom until after be emigrated to Australia with his first wife, Sandra, and young family hy in 1958 after completing his National Service and qualify-ing as an electrician.

This skill got him a job on the technical side in a new

Australian television studio, but it was not long before he was writing scripts and hosting a children's show. In 1969 he found Emu languishing in the props room of the studio and received him from ablining the studio and received him from ablining the studio. and rescued him from oblivi-on. It was the start of a relationship from which he was never to be allowed to look back. Soon the pair were cosying up to each other and making life a misery for

In 1970 Hull returned to Britain with his second wife, Cher, whom he had met and married while on tour in Australia. In an astonishingly short time he and the gargling, unmannerly fowl became a national institution on: television, with a brand of rough-and-tumble knocka-bout gags that somehow ap-pealed to the young without

scandalising the old. Emu and his manipulator could always be guaranteed to bring out the worst in each other, and their anarchic behaviour was a refreshing change from the somewhat standardised TV studio "good taste" of the day. No one who ventured within range of them was safe from indignity.

But a large unpaid tax bill and other debts compelled him to sell the house in a climate of falling prices, after he had spent £250,000 on it. In Besides Hull's own shows -Rod Hull and Emu, Emu's 1994 he was declared bank-

Life, the Parkinson show and

many others, and were a great

hit as far afield as Hollywood.

were Hull's heyday, but diffi-

cult times lay ahead. In 1986 he bought a 32-room Eliza-

bethan mansion in Kent for

£350,000 with the aim of

restoring it. By this time he was winding down his show-business career and hoping

for a peaceful, bucolic retire-

The Seventies and Eighties

World, EBC (Emu's Broadcastrupt and had also to sell a villa ing Company) and EMU-TV he had bought in Portugal. — the pair made guest appearances at Royal Variety per-formances, on This is Your His second wife took the three children of their marriage to Australia where, after the conclusion of his bankruptcy case, Hull joined them. But he became homesick for England and after three months returned to this country where he moved into a small cottage

in East Sussex. There he lived quietly, walking, reading, writing poetry and tending his vegetable garden. But he had plans to revive his showbusiness career. He had recently been seen in pantomime in Wind-sor and had made attempts to revive his act with Emu.

There were two daughters of his first marriage, which was dissolved, and two sons and a daughter of his second.



Bringing out the worst in each other: Hull and friend, 1980

HARRY CALLAHAN

everyone around them.



Intensity and concentration: Harry Callahan seen at at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1951

tended these schools of now almost mythical reputation. Although no scholar himself... Callahan had an intuitive intelligence and his teaching not have to visit Yellowstone to He attended a public (ie. be a great landscape photograstate) school in Royal Oak, pher. Landscape might exist in a footprint on barren ground or, as Callahan soon discov-Michigan, after which he studied engineering, though ered, in shimmering reflecfor three semesters only, at

tions on water. He knew he was on the right lines when anthropomorphic references began to surface in his work; for example, the ease with which thick, windswept grasses suggested tresses of hair. He was never certain in his own mind quite what made images work: I just

followed his hunches. He was always willing to attempt

different, sometimes conflicting, approaches: "I wanted to be a big artist, so I wanted to do everything." As a result his style is hard to summarise. If constant threads run through his ocuvre, they are, first, a strong sense of abstract design in which each element of the print contributes clearly: and. secondly, a belief that a picture must signify more than is instantly apparent on the surface. Whether it be in the of dead stalks of grass in the snow, the quiet testing and pushing of photography's ability to make symbols is every-where evident. With characteristic humility Callahan made no claims for his own efforts: "I don't think anything I do has any monumental thought in any way." Nevertheless, the picture had to convey the right intensity and concentration.

In 1950 he made his most celebrated images, a sequence of furtive, close-up heads of pedestrians walking alone don't know what makes a series of sophisticated "snap- along State Street: Chicago. picture, really—the thing that shot" pictures. of his wife He homed in on women deep

Or Email ini.features@newsint.co.uk

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be

received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

litz, both of whom he revered, makes it is something encouraged him to pursue an unique."

Eleanor and daughter Bar in thought and caught them bara, or his crotically charged individual course. Adams especially sught him that you did came more varied as he spare, calligraphic drawings and other essays during the 1940s and 1950s, he helped to keep alive the tradition of fine art photography while many contemporaries went over to social documentary for the new and popular (and well-paid) picture magazines. As his work testifies, Callahan was quietly uncompromising. He retired from teaching in

1977 to concentrate on colour photography. He had photographed in colour since 1940 but rarely exhibited this - in those days - unfashionable work. These pictures focus on the formal properties of wooden buildings, often the gaily painted dapboard houses around Cape Cod.

In 1978 he became the first American photographer to represent his country at the Venice Biennale. Fame in Britain arrived late, however, and it was not until 1985, when the Welsh Arts Council organised a touring retrospective, that British audiences were introduced to his work in anything resembling comprehensive depth.

He once said that if he had any ambition, it was to "touch the spirit in people". Quiet, tongue-tied and humble, he was liked and respected by all who met him. After his retirement he remarked that his "life outside photography hasn't been such a big deal". He moved to Atlanta, Geor-gia, in the mid-1980s to be near his daughter and continued his photography until he suffered a stroke in 1997.

He is survived by his wife and most devoted model, Eleanor Knapp, whom he married in 1936, and by their daughter Barbara.

GERHARD HERZBERG

Gerhard Herzberg, spectroscopist, died in Ottawa on March 3 aged 94. He was born in Hamburg on December 25, 1904.

A PIONEER in the development of spectroscopy for the study of molecules. Gerhard Herzberg was not only pre-em-inent in the field, but for many years he was the field. His books defined the subject, and at the National Research Council in Ottawa he established a laboratory that led the world. As a naturalised Canadian who made his affection for his adopted country plain, Herz-berg became a father figure to Canadian science, and continued working productively until the age of 90.

He was born in Hamburg, and soon showed promise. At the age of 12 he and a friend, Alfred Schulz, built their own telescope, grinding the lenses and mounting them in a metal tube. On clear nights they would take a tram to the city park and study the Moon and planets. But when he applied to Hamburg Observatory for a job, he was told: "There is no point in thinking of a career in astronomy unless one has private means of support."

His support came from his mother, widowed when he was ten, and a private scholarship from a German industrialist. He entered the Technical University at Darmstadt to study physics in 1924 and within four years he had completed his doctorate and published 12 papers in atomic and molecular physics. He won a post-doctoral fellowship at Göttingen, working under Max Born and James Franck. He then spent a year at the University of Bristol, before returning to Darmstadt. In 1934, warned that he

would be dismissed because his wife was Jewish, Herzberg appealed for help to the

President of the University of Saskatchewan, Walter Murray, through a young scientist who had studied with him in Darmstadt. Murray wrote to both the University of Toronto and the National Research Council, saying that if they could not offer Herzberg a job. the University of Saskatchewan would do so, despite a

desperate shortage of money. The Herzbergs arrived in Saskatoon in September 1935 'with \$2.50 in my pocket", as Herzberg later recalled. He stayed for ten years, during which his classic books Atom-

ic Spectra and Atomic Structure (1936) and Moleculor Spectra and Molecular Structure (1939) were published.

Spectroscopy is the use of light to identify atoms and molecules by the frequencies they emit or absorb. Herzberg used the technique to study many molecules, including those that make only a fleeting appearance in the course of a chemical reaction. In the auturns of 1959 his team finally captured the spectrogram of methylene, a highly unstable "free radical" consisting of a carbon arom with two hydrogen atoms attached.

It had taken him 18 years, but proving that it existed even for a fraction of a second was the key to understand-ing many chemical reactions.

more than 30 other free radicals, he won the 1971 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He was in Leningrad on a lecture tour and, given no more than the bare notification that he had won, assumed that the prize was for physics. By then he had also realised his ambition to become an astronomer, serving for three years as Professor of Spectroscopy at the Yerkes Observatory in Chicago. But he missed Cana-

da, and found the atmosphere of McCarthy America reminiscent of prewar Germany. He returned to the NRC in Ottawa in 1948, where he remained for the rest of his long life. The beauty of spectroscopy

is that distance is no obstacle, so that light from distant stars can be analysed and used to determine their structure. Herzberg found that a rare form of carbon exists in comets, and discovered free radicals in interstellar gas and hydrogen in the atmospheres of some planets.

He remained throughout

his life a scientist's scientist. untempted by celebrity. He resisted efforts by bureaucrats to channel spending only towards applied research for which an application could be identified. You shouldn't do science just to improve wealth," he said. "Do science for the sake of human culture

and knowledge."

Modest and cheerful, he was fond of music and at one stage in his life had contemplated becoming an opera

Working on past the age of 05 with the agreement of the NRC, he discovered the spectrum of triatomic hydrogen in his eighties, and did not officially retire until he was 90. His first wife Luise died in 1971. He is survived by his second wife Monika, and a son and daughter.

interests. He wrote on Ancient

Greek dance and the Ancient

Greek dialects, and on Aris-

tophanes and Euripides -

both of whom he translated

He wrote poetry of his own, publishing seven volumes be-

tween 1960 and 1994. Some of

for stage productions.

PERSONAL COLUMN LEGAL NOTICES MEMORIAL SERVICES TICKETS FOR SALE **FLIGHTS** DIRECTORY HOWSE - Capt. Terrance Heary James. A Service of Thanksgiving held at St Peter's Church. Bramahaw Sunday 21st March al Spa. Pivil MANUMS Chemp, Ting V Po-land, Rogby World Cap. Calchet World Cap, Worthington Cop Pi-mil, Anoxi, Cantham Gold Cap, All Genad Frix. Wilmbiedon Debe All Major Sporting events, then-ter Telt 0171 394 \$253 CC's NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOHN ADMINISTRATIVE PRIMEROY, HOMES LIMITED TA BENOTH NUSSING & RESERVATION FORM OTICE IS RESERVE GIVEN YEART 2 15 Health in var. 2ethy & 3. 3. Ryman of Class louis 26 - 26 Oscalas Street a SVIIY 4EP were appointed FIRST CLASS JETLINE IN MEMORIAM -ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE the aforementioned company on the 11 March 1999 by BAGK OF Pilonan - Angelique Halen Mary tragically died 19th March 1902 aged 25 years. Simply the Best Danghter stry mother ever had. God Riess you Darling, Love Mare. 01920 484007 FULL VIP PACKAGE + MATCH TICKET **Jetworld** ANNOUNCEMENTS TEL: 0181 970 2610 0171 360 1111 SPAIN - FTY ORLANDO - ET TORTIGGAL ME CAMADA. MALTA MI CAMADEAN I WOODWAND - Magan inte Birden). Left us one year age today. Massel more than ever by son Gary, sister Carol, father Harol PREMIER EVERTS HAVE . **ANNOUNCEMENTS** ALL TICKETS ly. Every day we ENG Y FRANCE 01273 277 877 WALES Y ENG ENG V POLAND **CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS** CRICKET W/CUP BIRTHDAYS CHELT'M & ASCOT FARESAVERS ALL GRAND PROXS every day. Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having 0171 283 5050 Donations argently needed by the British Kidney Patient WANTED Association FOR SALE 01476 592095 Berden, Hants. GU35 932. MARK COATS, for course perchane year price paid. Please sum enguires & details to Box 5504 LLFL Reg. Churity No. 270255 FLIGHTSEEKERS TICKETS FOR SALE R AMERICANY Michigan Trans. Say date. 218 year free 1850's Vineta same Michiganel Pal: 0171 726 2626 LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & Demonstrum: Seems for rain W.I.S. httlerdenn Statisma, half way line, 4 in a row, best leastice. (50-yes) 7st 0836 720720 Pen. 02446 700552 **PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES** 0171 863 4425 TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE. THE TRANS - 1791 - 1999 other ti-ties sweltsble. Ready for presen-tation - also Sandays. Immuni-ber White. 0181 763 6345 or Gall Free 0500 520000 West in London Physics Sugn, Sulgan, All pop 2 upor Gullens 0171 930 8636 Telephone 0171 680 6878 CHADITO COOK CORPORATE Fax 0171 782 7930 HOSPITALITY ALL TICKETS FLATSHARE

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WILLETTS PROFESSOR RONALD

Ronald Willetts, Professor of Greek at Birmingham University, 1970-80, died on February 19 aged 83. He was born on April 2, 1915.

RONALD WILLETTS was a classical scholar and Hellenist with a wide range of interests and expertise. His scholarship was founded on a deep commitment to the Greek lan-guage and Greek literature, hut as his published work shows, he was equally at home as an ancient historian and

philologist.
Ronald Frederick Willetts went up to Birmingham University in the 1930s from Halesowen Grammar School, and read Classics in a lively department of Greek headed by E. R. Dodds, who was succeeded, on his election in 1936 to the Oxford chair, by Professor George Thomson. Both men greatly influenced Willetts.

Amid the intellectual ferment of the 1930s, Willetts was involved in left-wing and anti-Nazi policial groups; Birming-

ham University was then also the focus of a thriving community of the arts, particularly with the poet Louis MacNeice as a lecturer in the Department of Greek.

After graduating, Willens taught for a year before serving with the Army in India and Burma from 1940 to 1946. In hospital in India he was nursed by Jane Dann, whom he married in 1945. At the end of the war

Willetts returned to Birming-

ham as lecturer in Greek. rising eventually to be chair-man of the School of Hellenic and Roman Studies. He was the leading authority on the history and society of later Ancient Crete, on which he published two books early in his career. He also wrote papers on Ancient Cyprus. including one that threw light on Homer's baffling references to double door locking mechanisms, which he had been to investigate on a door

But Willetts also had wider

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from a village house in the Museum of Nicosia.

the poems were inspired by his love of the Greek poets. especially Homer and Aeschylus: a few reflected his experience of war in the East; many drew on his travels, expressing moments of insight and emotional response in Greece and the islands that he loved.

As well as former students. who were grateful for the way his teaching brought Greek literature and thought to life, his friends included many from across the range of university faculoes and in the arts. He was for five years the Public Orator of Birmingham University.

In the last few years, as his health failed, he was sustained by the devotion of his wife. who survives him together with their daughter.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

IT IS surprising that in London Wellington's campaigns are only commemorated by some five field guns and 200 curasses, and all of Marlborough's campaigns are represented by a pair of kettledrums and two field guns, these relies being preserved in the Tower of London. together with a few but priceless specimens of armour. The war of the last five years has been of such a nature that it should be recorded by the means of tangible objects for

On March 17, 1917, the War Cabinet approved the formation of a National War Museum for the collection and preservation of trophies, books, maps, posters, works of art. and other material, and at a later date the title was altered to the Imperial War Museum. A committee, representing the Admiralty, War Office, Air Force, Ministry of Munitions.

Library and Art, have been for three years collecting material . . . As the time progressed the Services showed keen interest in collecting for the museum, and on the naval side many valuable historical objects were deposited, including

guns and other relics from the Vindictive and ships in action at Zeebrugge, from subma-

March 19, 1920 **经**应数的

ON THIS DAY

In 1917 the Wor Cabinet approved the formation of a National Wor Museum. What later became the Imperiol War Museum in London is now visited by 500,000 people a year.

rines, from the ill-fated Hampshire and Lusitania, together with many scientific instruments. For the models of ships the museum authorities are under a great obligation to the various shipbuilding firms, who generously contributed more than 50 magnificent scale models, ranging from battleships to trawlers. The submarine warfare is exemptified by a large section model showing the interior of a submarine, this illustration being amplified by actual fittings from some of the surrendered submarines.

On the Army side the regiments have

contributed a number of trophies captured by their several battalions, and an extremely interesting and valuable collection of models has been formed showing trench warfare. A model in course of construction illustrates the landing at Gallipoli, and a relief map over 100ft. long showing the British from in March, 1918. From the Tank Headquarters representative examples of mechanical warfare have been received, and here again the models are employed to show the various operations employed in tank warfare . .

The section devoted to women's work must overlap that of munitions to a certain extent but it will be of incalculable interest in the future not only from an historical point of view, but also for economic reasons, to see the large amount of tathe and mechanical work which was produced by women only during the war. The Records, which in many cases will not be suitable for exhibition, form a very large section of the Museum and comprise innumerable Army reports, orders and memoranda. The records of the Women's Section give a very complete history of women's work and dilution in factories.

To continue storing all these exhibits in separate buildings became impossible, and it was therefore decided to rent certain portions of the Crystal Palace so that the whole collection might be adequately shown. It is hoped to open the exhibition in May.

THE TIMES TODAY

HEWS

Dome tickets to cost up to £20

The Millennium Dome will be Britain's most expensive tourist attraction, with adults paying £20 each for full-price tickets. Admission prices for the £758 million exhibition announced by the New Millennium Experience Company are particularly steep for the elderly. Single pensioners must pay £18 for a ticket - a discount of just 10 per cent

Times tipster's 3,000-1 treble

The final day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival was a triumph for the trainer Paul Nicholls and for The Times racing tipster Rob Wright. Nicholls produced See More Business to win the Tote Gold Cup at 16-1, part of a treble for Wright who also tipped Anzum for the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle and Space Trucker for the Grand Annual Chase. An investment of

Lorry protest

Defiant ministers held firm last night over E2billion of motoring tax increases despite threats from protesting lorry drivers to bring London to a standstill Page 2

Balloon triumph

Brian Jones, 51, has piloted the Breitling Orbiter 3 to within one day and under three thousand miles of going round the world in ...Page 3

GM food penalties

Shops and supermarkets face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label any food which contains genetically modified soya and maize.

Falling angels

The Roman Catholic church is diluting its belief in angels and strengthening opposition to executions - but masturbation is no longer always a sin...... Page 5

Denning, the sleuth

the infamous "headless man" into revealing his role in the scandalous 1963 divorce of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, her biographer says today....

Funeral anger

Rosemary Nelson, the human rights lawyer, was buried after a funeral in Lurgan, Co Armagh, that doubled as a demonstration of nationalist anger Page 9

Bedroom culture Parents are giving their children

more televisions, videos, computers and CD players to use in their bedrooms to compensate for their restricted lifestyles Page 10

Rubella alert

There is a growing danger of an epidemic of rubella because the proportion of infants being immunised has been falling for more Page 13 than four years.....

Santer attacked

Members of the independent inquiry which brought down the European Commission attacked Jacques Santer and his team for rejecting their verdict.....Page 15

Naked politics

Russian insomniacs raised eyebrows as they watched grainy footage of Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General, cavorting naked across their television screens with two young women... Page 16

The late Lord Denning trapped Body parts scandal

Egypt's establishment moved with rare alacrity to try to scotch allegations that 25 children had been sold to hospitals and killed for their body parts Page 17

Slavery allegation

A high-ranking Burundian civil servant at Unesco in Paris has heen deprived of diplomatic immunity amid accusations that he

New incident on the Yangtze

In an extraordinary gesture of goodwill two admirals from Britain and China marked the events that followed the Communists' shelling of the frigate, HMS Amethyst, in the Yangtze River 50 years ago. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce Admiral Zhao Guojun, dropped a wreath into the muddy waters of the Yangtze to honour the 17 British and Chinese who died Pages 1, 14



A boy jumps from a statue of Davie Cooper, the Scottish footballer who died aged 39 in 1995, at an unveiling in Hamilton, his home town

in the red: Rover, the troubled UK car manufacturer, incurred losses of £645 million last year, BMW dis-

Page 27 Oil rises: The sharp recovery in oil prices continued as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, moved to implement a substantial _Page 27 cut in output... No party: Hanover International,

the four-star hotel operator, is to close its hotels over the new year after concluding that staff and entertainment costs would outweigh the benefits of staying opeo for millennium festivities. _Page 27 Markets: The FTSEI00 fell 26.3 to 6114.3. The pound rose .05 cents to \$1.6302 and .15p to 67.40p against the euro. The pound index rose to

102.5 from 102.4...

Football: Kevin Keegan used his first England squad announcement to rehabilitate players such as Chris Sutton, Ray Parlour and Andy Cole_ ...Page 52 Boxing: Lennox Lewis called on Evander Holyfield to give him the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation belts

the Italy captain, is certain to be picked to play against Wales after a ban for stamping was overturned on a technicality..... Otympic Games: Statistics show that The IOC has total savings of £135 million and that £137,000 was spent by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on living expenses

..... Page 49

Tomorrow in

The Saturday

Times

Meet Ramon Vega,

Spurs , Cup finalist

...Page 30 in Lausanne in 1998.....

the world thinks are his ... Page 50

Rugby union: Massimo Giovanelli,

Strewth: "I wish I could come to Australia's aid, in this hour of crisis, by offering my own views on Lolita, but I can't." Richard Morrison on movie madness____Page 35 Parody parade: For 17 years Gerard Alessandrini's show Forbidden Broadway has fed New York appetites for showbiz morsels; now London can share the jokes __ Page 36 Pop 1: David Sinclair reviews the week's new pop albums, from Skunk Anansie's diminished Post Orgasmic Chill to Tim Rice and Eltoo John's Aida Pop 2: Heroin is a mug's game,

says Caitlin Moran, so why do so many stars of the world of pop still play it? Plus: the work of Craig Armstrong, possibly Britain's busiest

> Brain power: Met v and parents are becoming control by recent research that shows that classical music can boost a child's gener-Page 43 al intelligence.

Potted: Jane Shilling finds a source

for pots that placate her fantasy of

Bewitching: Phyllis Curott is a

trained lawyer. She is also a witch.

She laughs at remarks about newts

and broomsticks. But the high

priestess takes her new calling very

Raymond Snoddy: "ITV is cock-a-

hoop over the performance of its

new schedule, post-News at Ten.

Helped by movie premieres, the net-

work raced to its best performance

Lifesavers: Anthony Porter was

days away from execution when

four journalism students were giv-

en his case to study____Page 41-

Page 21

French style...

seriously_

for four years"....

There's good news and bad news about the Olympic scandals. The good news is that the IOC expelled six of its members identified as having taken bribes to award the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City. The bad news is that IOC Chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch is - New York Post

Preview: Contestants trade in their old cars: Trading Up (Channel 4, Spm) Review. Let's face it, these people are nerds, says Paul Hoggart ofPages 50. 5i Top Gear....

OPPLICA

Always with us

The substance of the Prime Minister's speech was somewhat more significant than the soundbite that Page 23 accompanied it.....

Russia's ring

Weeks of rumours that Mr Yelisin was planning to sack his centrist Prime Minister, the Soviet-era grandee Yevgeni Primakov, were denied this week by both President and Prime Minister ____ Page 23

Genetic menu

The intention here is noble enough. But it may be too late. Many people are convinced that GM foods are a threat both to their health, and to the environment.

SIMON JENKINS

Bill Clinton flashed his sequins. danced a jig and put some more bourbon on ice. Resolving Northem Ireland has always seemed that simple to the expatriate Irish of America_

BERNARD CONNOLLY

If Europe is evolving at all, it is evolving not towards a nation-state but towards an empire, along the lines of the Prussian-dominated Wilhelmine bureaucratic Reich, It thus threatens to provide the worst of all worlds.... Page 22.

WILLIAM TREVOR

There was murder in Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between acts. We had nothing like it in West Cork ___ Page 22

Rod Hull, entertainer: Harry Callahan, photographer; Gerhard Herzberg, scientist: Ronald Willetts, classical scholar...

EU reform: Arevil case beadless man; Prescoir's trip to India; Pilate and crucifixion; four-legged chickens: Gainsborough portrait: tango revival; signs of spring Page 23

1, 7, 29, 38, 45, 46. Bonus: 35

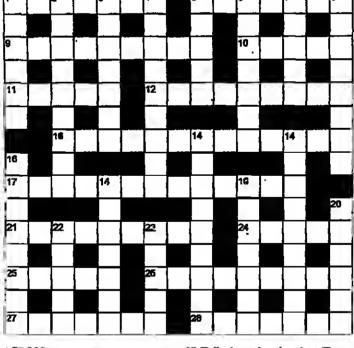
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,055



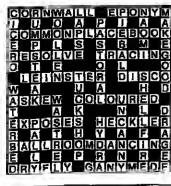
ACROSS

- l I am old-fashioned you can't get away from it (7).
- 5 Study a lot of pupils fit in (7). 9 Senior policeman competes noisi-
- 10 Articles made of wood ten, at the outside (5). 11 From America, detective police-
- man in training (5). 12 Separate pan (4.5).

ly for control (9)

- 13 Poet spurned me ends in trou-
- 17 Popular song whose theme in-
- volved love and me (4.5.4). 21 Blunt to no avail (9).
- 24 Almost overlooked surrender (5).
- 25 Arrive at church to marry (5). 26 Quiet new editor brought in, for example (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,054



27 Talk about siogular plant (7). 28 What's missing from front of book? An insect (7).

1 Monarch, for example, belonging to religious group (6).

2 Dreadfully pampered, I fancy

a limited class (7). 4 Being without is, to a number, extremely credible (9).

5 Part of face, i.e. lip (5). 6 Fruit with covering one's called bananas? (7).

ing (5).

threats (8). 14 Lush, very large mountain-top. as it were (2,2,5) 15 A flightless bird ran round to lead

attack (9). 16 Meat cut into small pieces quickly (4-4). 18 Shoulder hag let cash become dis-

organised (7). 19 Eccentric back in the police station? (7). 20 Offensive - enemy departs after

it's over (6). 22 Heads off inland, not the easiest route to Bury (5). 23 My pet is lost - you might get a re-

ward if it's returned (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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C E, NE and Central N England: windy, mostly dry, aumy spells. Fresh NW word. Max 11C (SZF). S and N Wales, NW England, Lake District, lete of Marc surny spots and showers, cloudy in Li Bordera, Edinburgh & Dendes: surny spole, rain possible in attempon. Moderate to fresh NW who Mex 10C (SOF). Abardence, Morey Firth, NE Scotland, Ork-may, Shelland: wholy with steel and snow show-

Day, Sessioned windy year sales and providents. Storing to near-pete NY wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ SW and NW Scotland, Gleagow, Central Highlands, Arght surny spells in morning, then largely douby with light rain tuning to snow on high ground. Fresh NW wind. Max 8C (45F). N Ireland: mainly cloudy, light rain spreading east. Fresh NW wind. Max 11C (52F) ☐ lateth Republic: bright intervals, mainly dry Moderate NW wind. Max 13C (SSC). ☐ Outlook: Scotland and N Iroland surrey spells and writry showers, England and Wales with paschy rain in north.

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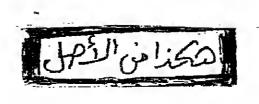
YESTERDAY: highest day temp: Boumemouth, Dorset, and Southses Hampshire, 15C (61F); lowest day mac Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Tutloch Bridge 0.34ins; highest sunshina: Newcaste upon Tyre 10.5ms

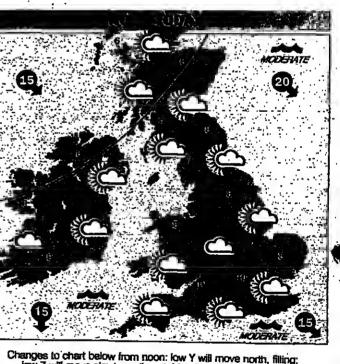
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Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move north, filling; low Z will move slowly northeast; high H will remain in situ



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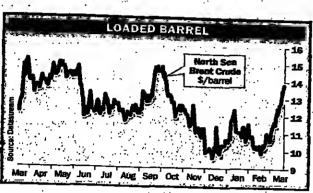
Elton and Tim's big gamble

Arts, Page 37

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999

Oil price takes off after Saudis cut output



BY MARTIN BARROW

THE sharp recovery in oil prices gathered pace yesterday as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, moved to imple-ment a substantial cut in output.

Benchmark Brent crude from the North Sea traded close to \$14 a barrel in London, its highest level in nearly six months. Oil prices have now risen by almost 40 per cent since touching a low of \$9.90 in mid-February.

Yesterday's 60 cent rise to \$13.87 was driven by expectations that last week's agreement by producers to cut output by two million barrels per day would be implemented. Brent averaged just \$13.34 per

barrel last year, the lowest in more than 20 years, and mem-bers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) lost more than \$50 billion (£3) billion) in revenues in the year. Saudi Arabia, which has been producing 8 million barrels per day (bpd), yesterday served notice to customers in Japan and South Korea that April deliveries of crude would

be cut by at least 11 per cent. Taiwan will also be affected. Similar moves have been made by Algeria and Iran, which are also Opec members and helped to forge last week's agreement in the Hague. Yesterday Mexico, which is not a member of Opec but is part of the effort to rescue oil prices.

company Pernex to cut daily output by 125,000 bpd. There is concern that higher

oil prices could delay the economic recovery of South-East Asia. During last year's financial crisis Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan, all major importers of crude, were spared further damage by the sharp fall in oil prices, which slashed

their energy import bill.
The International Energy Agency (IEA), which monitors rise in demand for Opec's oil in 1999 because producers outside Opec, such as Russia, are

suffering a decline in output.
The IEA expects global demand for oil to remain un-changed at 74.7 million bpd this year but forecasts a rise in oil produced by Opec to 27.1 million bpd from the 26.9 million bpd forecast only a month ago.

Stock market, page 30

Business Today



firm reaps

RETAIL sales volumes fell in

The weak figures, coupled

Willem Buiter, an independent member of the Monetary Policy Committee, added to the impression that rates will fall further when he indicated that he will continue to push for rate reductions.

Professor Buiter, who was the sole member of the MPC to have voted for a rate cut at the last meeting, said he favoured moving swiftly to a position

Professor Buiter's ments briefly sent the pound lower on the foreign exchanges, although it recovered to close marginally up against both the dollar and the euro. The markets also shrugged off the European Central Bank's decision to leave rates on hold

Borneo decision, page 33 No big spenders

on high street in February

By Alasdair Murray **ECONOMICS** CORRESPONDENT

February as consumers continued to adopt a cautious approach to high street spending. with separate data showing that money supply growth has fallen to its lowest rate for near-ly four years, left analysts confident that the Bank of England will cut rates again in the near future.

have to move lower.

at 3.0 per cent.

After a strong bounce-back in retail sales during the January discounting period, vol-umes slipped by 0.3 per cent last month. This left the lessvolatile quarterly growth rate just I per cent higher than in the same three months last year, the weakest performance for three years. However, the annual growth rate ocked up from 1.1 per cent to 1.3 per cent.



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STOCK MARKET FTSE 100 6114.3 (-26.3) Yield 2,5974 FTSE All Share 2825.40 (-11.50) Nikkei 15777.92 (-550.19)

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New York

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NORTH SEA OIL

GOLD London close ___ \$283.15 (\$294.15) Exchange rates

Cisco chief

attacks

mergers

By Chris Ayres

THE president of Cisco Systems, the \$170 billion manufacturer of telecoms equipment. has challenged the rationale for his industry's urgency to consolidate through mergers

and acquisitions. In an interview with The Times, John Chambers, who is also Cisco's chief executive, predicts that more than 70 per cent of acquisitions in the telecoms industry will fail. He is fiercely critical of the \$20 billion (£12.3 billion) acquisition of Ascend by Lucent Technologies - one

of Cisco's main competitors. Telecom mergers and the acquisition of Internet companies have helped to drive US shares to record highs. But Mr Chambers says recent deals have been belated, overpriced and likely to fail. Acquisition prices "were probably 50 to 100 per cent higher than what we would have paid," he

Cisco kid, page 31

ordered the state-owned oil Longbridge doubts grow as Rover losses top £600m

By Adam Jones and

ROVER, the struggling Brit-ish subsidiary of BMW, the German carmarker, made a loss of DM1.87 billion (£645 million) last year — more than seven times the DM260 million deficit in 1997.

The size of the losses, which shocked some analysts, come as BMW is thought to be haggling with the UK Government for more money before giving any commitment on the future of the Rover factory at Longbridge in Birmingham, which directly employs about 14,000 people.

Ahead of yesterday's meeting of the BMW board, the Department of Trade and Industry told executives that it was prepared to contribute towards the cost of developing a new car that would replace the ageing Rover 200 and 400 models in a bid to keep Long.

However, despite leaks that a £200 million offer is on the table, there were suggestions last night that the DTI offered just £100 million. BMW is thought to be looking for at

least £180 million. None of the parties in the negotiations would discuss the size of the offer yesterday. The OTI emphasised that the "indication" of an aid package would be open to further discussion after BMW considered it yesterday.

The Government's offer of aid is linked to productivity increases, training improve-ments and new investment, which is likely to cost BMW a total of £1.7 billion.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said:



A worker leaving the Longbridge plant yesterday as the uncertainty over the Birmingham factory intensified in the wake of Rover's massive losses

The package we have put to BMW is complex and we therefore expect to have further discussions in the next few

Although some sources had been suggesting yesterday that there could be an announcement on Longbridge's future at the end of next week, it now seems likely that the process will drag on longer. BMW has previously given warning that the new Rover model could be built in Hungary instead of the UK.

It said yesterday: "Given the current stage of discussions with the British Government, the BMW board has not yet decided on the investment site for production of the successor to the Rover 200 and 400

Prior estimates of the 1998 loss at Rover had differed wildly - from £200 million to £1 billion. Rover's woes have been caused by the strong pound and provisions against the cost of making more than 2,500 staff redundant, BMW has not given any breakdown of the losses.

The strength of sterling reduced earnings from Rover ex-

ports, which account for about 56 per cent of production. The pound conversely hit Rover's domestic market aiding foreign imports from companies such as Peugeot DM903 million last year.

and Renault. The Rover losses caused BMW group net profits to slump from DM1.246 billion in 1997 to Georg Stürzer, automobile

he believed that BMW had loaded the 1998 results with as many Rover losses as it could find, rather than shifting them into next year's figures.

analyst at HypoVereinsbank, said: "The sum of DM1.87 bil-

tion for Rover losses is indeed at the very high end of our ex-pectations." But he added that

Commentary, page 29

*BICC shuns bid from Wassall

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

BICC Group, the troubled and much-restructured engineeraround and that there is a lot

Speculation about a takeing company that made a £94 over bid for BICC has been rife million loss last year, has rejected a possible £380 million since Wassall snared a stake at 57p in the group in November and it now holds 9.3 per cent of takeover bid from Wassall, its second biggest shareholder. Wassall, an industrial conthe group. BICC's share price has edged up from a low of 38p last year, due in part to the company's sale of its troubledomerate, said last night that it had sought BICC's support for an offer pitched at 90p a some businesses and a sharp share, 8p above yesterday's reduction in its debt load. Its closing price. efforts to rebuild its market im-

But Alan Jones, BICC chief executive, described the price as "ridiculously low and op-portunistic". Mr Jones added: "I really don't think it is anyage were dealt a blow this month when it unveiled a £94 million pre-tax loss for 1998.
Chris Miller, chief executive of Wassall, said: "This proposal should be brought to the attention of BICC shareholders." thing like value for the bompany. People are saying we are turning the company

Hanover guarantees a millennium break

By DOMINIC WALSH

HANOVER International, the four-star hotel operator, is to close its botels over the new year after concluding that staff and entertainment costs would outweigh the benefits of staying open to celebrate the millennium.

Peter Eyles, executive chairman, said that the levels of service would have been difficult to guarantee.

"I don't think much money will be made by hotels," he said. "The cost of hiring enter-tainment has gone through the roof and any staff willing to work will charge a king's

Mr Eyles said that making computer systems year 2000 compliant had cost the company £250,000. "Even then," he added, "I don't think anybody can say with any cer-

tainty what will happen on January 1." Hanover's decision to close its six hotels — in Skipton, Reading, Daventry, Hinckley, Huddersfield and Ashbourne

is in contrast with its peers. In a recent survey of 60 London hoteliers, Pannell Kerr Forster, the leisure consultancy, found that just one was contemplating shutting up shop for New Year's Eve.

Shares of Hanover fell 8p to 1171/p despite the company unveiling an impressive 62 per cent jump in 1998 profits be-fore tax and exceptionals to £3.2 million, from turnover up 8 per cent to £21.4 million: Earnings per share reached 15.8p (10.5p) and a final divi-dend of 0.9p gives a total pay-out for the year of 1.5p (1.0p). Mr Eyles said that Hanover

was looking to add new hotels in the coming months. It is thought to be discussing a £15 million deal to acquire a long lease on the Ashford International in Kent, currently operated by Queens Moat Houses.

Gucci rebuffs LVMH claim

THE fragile truce between LVMH and Gucci was broken last night after the Italian fashion house issued early profit figures to prove it is in better financial health than its French

Gucci, due to release its results next week, said its 1998 profits rose by 11 per cent. This compares favourably with a 29 per cent decline by the whole LVMH group, which returned its final results vester-

The move came on the eve of peace talks, which the two sides are due to start in Amsterdam today. They will discuss whether LVMH's recently built 34.4 per cent stake in

By Fraser Nelson Gucci allows it a seat on the board.

Gucci said it was forced to issue yesterday's statement because Bernard Arnault, LVMH's chairman, had told Paris analysts in was half as profitable as his Louis Vuitton fashion division. He told them: "What needs

to be done with Gucci now is what we have done with Vuitton for the past i0 years." Domenico De Sole, Gucci's chief executive, said the company made a net profit of \$195 million (£120 million) on sales up 7 per cent at \$1.04 billion

Commentary, page 29

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Westland plans to merge with Italian rival

THE controversy over Westland Helicopters, which al-most brought down Margaret Thatcher's Government 13 years ago, came full circle yesterday when the company ta in a 50:50 joint venture company that will have a turnover of about EL5 billion in 2000. announced an agreement to merge with Agusta of Italy. In 1986 the fate of the ailing

Westland sparked furious ex-changes in the Cabinet. It had negotiated a rescue by Sikorsky of America but Michael Heseltine, then Dence Secretary, wanted Westland to merge with a Europe-an consortium including Brit-ish Aerospace. Aerospaoale of France and Agusta. When this plan was rejected, Mr He-seltine resigned from the Cabinet in protest.

Mr Heseltine's desire for a European merger is now being partially satisfied, a reflection of how the political climate has swung in his fa-

GKN. Westland's latest parent, has signed a "heads of agreement" - a preliminary deal -- with Finmeccanica, Agusta's owner. It will combine Westland and Agus-

Tony Blair has come out in favour of European mergers and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, welcomed the move, which requires regulatory approval.

However, the chances of this European consolidation going one step further are be-ing hampered by the involvement of the French State. Through its stake in Aero-

spatiale, the French Government owns part of Eurocopter, the other big European helicopter group. The other shareholder is Dasa of Germany, Aerospatiale's partner in the Airbus consorti-

David Wright, the GKN di-rector who will be chairman of the Westland-Agusta joint venture, agreed yesterday that the state involvement in

Eurocopter made a pan-European merger less likely.

The other big helicopter makers are Boeing, Bell and Sikorsky. Mr Wright said that he thought only Boeing would have larger sales in 2000

GKN Westland's order book stands at \$6.3 billion (£3.9 billion). Agusta's at \$2.2 billion. The pair jointly devel-oped the EH101 military helicopter ordered by the UK. Italy and Canada.

Arnadeo Caporaletti, chief executive of Agusta, will be chief executive of the joint venture. The board will be equal-ly composed of GKN and Fin-meccanica representatives.

Bank deal could lead to rerating

By Marianne Curphey

CLAUDE BEBEAR, chair-man of AXA, a key shareholder in the putative three-way merger between Banque Na-tionale de Paris (BNP), Parib-as and Societé General, said that the creation of the new entity would lead to a rerating of French retail banking.

AXA, the second-largest in-AAA, the second-targest in-surance company in the world, holds 6 per cent of BNP and 8 per cent of Paribas. M Bébéar revealed that Michel Pébereau, director-general of BNP, had consulted him before convincing the rest of BNP's board that he should launch the hostile bid for SG and Paribas.

and Paribas.

M Bébéar said that he be-lieved the deal would create value for shareholders, was good for the three companies involved and would not mean too many job losses. The new bank would be the largest in

euroland.

He said: "BNP is on a p/e mutiple of 12, while the others are ten to 11. The average European hank is on a rating of 14 to 16."

AXA unveiled a 16.5 per cent rise in income before taxes and minority interests to Fr24.5 billion (£2.6 billion).



Fresh food boosts Geest

GEEST, the chilled foods group, lifted profits 15 per cent in 1998 as it continued to benefit from a wide-ranging restructuring that centred on the disposal of its banana business three years ago (Martin

Barrow writes).

Reporting pre-tax profits of £28.1 million for last year, the

company said its prepared

salads, soups, sauces and pasta market was set for double-digit sales growth in

Geest shares rose lop to 425p yesterday. The total dividend is increased 20 per cent to 12p a share with a 7.2p final, payable from earnings that rose 19 per cent to 30.3p. lan Menzies-Gow, chair-

and lifestyle changes are supporting growth in fresh pre-pared foods, some of the fast-est-growing areas of the food sector. We will continue to expand our business to meet this

man, said: "Demographic

demand. "Turnover from continuing businesses was up 14 per cent

Irish Life profits increase

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

IRISH LIFE, the insurer than is set to merge with Irish Per. manent next month to create the Republic's third largest financial services provider. saw a 20 per cent rise in operaring profits in 1998, its last full year as an independent.

Operating profits rose to

Ir£136.9 million (£118 million) after tax from IrEII3.8 million. There was a 26 per cent increase in sales of life. pensions and investment

business which reached Ir E140 million. After a difficult 1997, in which the company's 400-strong sales force went on strike in protest at a shake-up of the business, Irish Life saw total sales in Ireland rebound 28 per cent to IrE94.1 million.

Demand from private investors was strong with re-tail sales up 39 per cent to IrE42.ti million. Because of the merger with Irish Permanent a second intering dividend of IriQ.2p is being paid in lieu of a final dividend. This lifts the total 10 per cent to Irl4.5p a share.

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BT to make Italian mobile licence bid

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday said it is to bid for fraity's fourth mobile telephone licence, and signalled that it is "highly unlikely" that it would get involved in Olivetti's €53 billion (£36 billion) takeover battle for Telecom Italia.

BT said it is to bid for the licence as part of a consortium called Blue, which includes Autostrade, Mediaset. Benetton and Distacom. Gaining the licence would give BT access to Europe's largest mobile phone market, with more than 21 million customers and market penetration of 40 per cent.

"Italy is Europe's most dynamic mobile market with im-mense potential for further growth, which a fourth licence would bring," said Pat Gallagher, BT's director of Europe. The licence will be awarded in June.

BT's indication that it is steering clear of the Telecom Italia situation came as Robert Colaninno. Olivetti's chief executive, was in London presenting to analysts on its takeover bid.

Web bookshop float

THE improfitable barnesandnoble.com, an Internet bookshop run by Barnes and Noble, America's biggest bookstore chain, and Germany's Bertelsmann, will publicly float a 15 to 20 per cent stake. The initial public offering, announced yesterday, will raise as much as \$200 million (£123 million) to fund the massive marketing costs of the Web battle against the rival bookseller Amazon.com. Losses at barnesandnoble: com have grown as marketing costs have exceeded revenue.

Piasecki plans buyout

JUREK PIASECKI, chairman and chief executive of Goldsmiths, yesterday revealed details of his plan to buy the jeweller out at 183p a share, and swore that he would "never again" take it back to the Stock Exchange. Goldsmiths was floated at 150p a share in 1990 after a management buyout that Mr Piasecki led. Mr Piasecki and his venture capital backers, Alchemy Partners, are offering a total of £43.9 million to buy the company off its present shareholders. Golden touch, page 31

Savings rates on the up

NATIONAL SAVINGS is increasing the rates on its fixed-rate products by up to 0.4 per cent after the increases in the medium-term money market rates. However, variable rate accounts remain unchanged and could go down if the bank base rate falls below 5.5 per cent. New savers with more than £20,000 in First Option Bonds will be paid 4.9 per cent instead of 4.75 per cent. Rates on Children's, Pensioners' and Capital bonds are 4.65 per cent for five years, up from 4.25 per cent.

Kwik-Fit shares leap

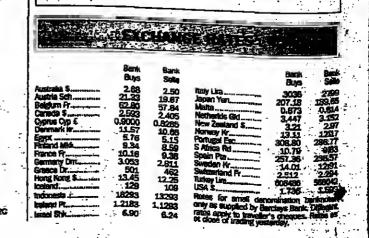
KWIK-FIT shares leapt 8½ per cent yesterday after the car re-pair company said the slack conditions that led to a profits warning in January had evaporated. It returned pre-tax prof-its of £64.3 million (£55.1 million) for the year to February 28. - back to in line with expectations. The company said that business since the warning had risen sharply. Earnings were 26p (22.3p) per share. The total dividend rises to 7.5p (6.5p) after a final 4.85p. The shares closed up 34½p to 439½p.

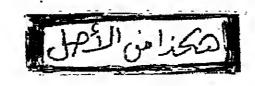
King World in talks

KING World Productions, the distributor of the Oprah Win-frey Show and other syndicated US TV shows, is in talks with potential buyers. Advised by Frank Biondi Jr, former head of Universal Studios, the management of King World — which has a \$1 billion (£600 million) cash hoard earmarked for acquisitions — is said to be looking for a deal, with CBS, Sony, Fox Entertainment and NBC reportedly in the frame.

Midshires go-ahead

THE TAKEOVER of Birmingham Midshires by the Halifax overcame its final major hurdle yesterday when the Building Societies Commission gave the go-ahead. The transfer of Birmingham Midshires from building society to independent division of the Halifax is on target for completion on April 19. The basic windfall distribution to members is £1,250, but the cash payout ranges from £800 to £5,400.





crease

3CH to 1999

The scene setting for today's meeting between emissaries of Gucci and LVMH does not point towards an early and amicable solution to their dispute. Handhags at dawn seemed a more likely outcome of the figure-slinging of yesterday. For a man contending that he should be welcomed aboard by

Gucci because of the expertise and enhanced profits he can bring, it was perhaps unfortu-nate that Bernard Arnault had to reveal a drop of almost 30 per cent in net operating income. But the ever-inventive M Arnault is not the sort to let that stand is his way. He chose interest not the sort to let that stand is his way. He chose instead to concentrate on the performance of just a small, but perfectly formed, part of his business. Louis Vuriton Mallette, he boasted, enjoyed operating margins of 46 per cent less war a rount worth noting if last year, a point worth noting if you should be thinking of buying a new suitcase or wallet.

Since in the LVMH accounts Vuitton usually nestles in the category known as "fashion and leather goods", alongside such darlings of the fashionistas as Dior and Givenchy, the news of this impresently. this impressive performance bursts upon the catwalk, its provenance hard to ascertain.

Gucci. which reports next week, can only pour scorn on the Arnault show and concentrate on the fact that its profits are up by II per cent, even if its margins are only 18 per cent. Perhaps chairman Domenico De Sole

should be allowed to indulge in the Amault technique and choose to do battle on the mar-

gins he makes on stilletto heels. De Sole is understandable un-nerved by M Arnault's interest in his business. The prospect of the LVMH chairman, now proud owner of a 34.4 per cent in Gucci, offering help and advice on how he should be running things might not enthuse many a corpo-rate leader who thinks that he is doing a fine job on his own.
But Arnualt will not go away.

He turned down the opportunity to buy Gucci in 1994, before designer Torn Ford had arrived with his must-have velvet shirts and transformed the business: Like Edith Piaf, Arnault insists he has no regrets, that his skill is in making successful brands even better, not risking shareholders' cash on unproven ones, but the line is not entirely convincing. His latest investment, a young cosmetics company which claims to operate "the hottest spa in New York", indicates a more flexible approach to portfolio building! Yet there is no doubt that, even-

tually, he would like to add Gucci to his stable. He may be prepared to agree not to increase his share stake for several years but

Handbags at dawn



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

he does not intend to abandon Gucci this time. So De Sole must find a way to live with his new shareholder.

This is where the issue becomes far more important than frocks. The battle between the two has shown up the flaws in Dutch company law to the horror of investors in both companies. Their eventual compromise will have to be followed by changes in the law.

Westland picks its own bride at last

estland's merger with Agusta, its long-term soulmate, will have taken an age - if it comes off. A week is a long time in politics; 13 years is an age even in business. The detail of what happened when the 1985 British Government tried to grapple with the fate of privately owned Westland the outline remains melodramatically coloured. In essence, a com-pany that was even then of only modest size and strategic importance became the battleground between the Atlanticists and pro-Europeans of British politics.

There was, you remember, the day when Michael Heseltine stormed out of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet meeting because he claimed he was not getting a fair hearing for his European merger solution to the problem of Brit-ain's Westland helicopter group. In retrospect, it was the moment that his claim to succeed Mrs Thatcher lapsed and perhaps also when the seeds were sown for the Tory disaster of 1997.

On the other long-term thinking, however, Mr Heseltine's w stands up better. Even then, the Defence Secretary had a vi-sion of Europe-wide defence corporations that is now common currency, though still being sty-mied by French statism. The financially easier solution

to Westland's industrial problems, at that time, was a deal with America's Sikorsky, anoth-

er long-time ally.

This plan originally had an Italian element too, but it was Fiat rather than Agusta. The Atlantic solution won the support of the board, Mrs Thatcher and Lord Hanson, one of several colourful figures who played roles in the exaggerated drama. Lord Hanson, in the end, deliv-

ered the US deal in the market. But Sir Leon Brittan, then Trade Secretary, was the prime minister's loyal political agent. He was also the other main casualty, having to quit his job to take the blame for dirty tricks in White-hall's corridors of power.

How odd then that Europe's champion should end up reforming the poll tax while Sir Leon, the cap-doffingly loyal Atlanti-cist, was made a British Commissioner in Brussels as second best to his stalled domestic career. Sir Leon has been at the centre

of European Commission affairs for years as a deputy president but has somehow emerged from the second great scandal of his ca-reer as a reforming Mr Clean. Clearly Sir Leon gained some-thing from the Westland experi-

ence. And at last Westland may have found its European future.

EU traders beware American deficit

this year's least surprising record so far is America's latest monthly trade deficit. Surpassing even the \$16.7 billion notched up last August, it reached \$17 billion in January. If gloomier forecasts of \$300 billion for the year prove right, there will be more records before buoyant importers start popping the

millennium champagne.
Surging imports should not be
the problem. China and others
are feeding the US consumption boom and keeping prices down.
American unemployment is at a
30-year low even if 337,000 factory jobs have gone in 12 months. Falling exports are more worry-

ing. Markets from Bangkok to Kyoto and from St Petersburg to São Paolo are shrinking. At this yoto and from St Petersburg to

stage, US officials are taking the responsible line. The only way for America to stop being importer of last resort is for other parts of the world to manage more growth. The US needs a buoyant Korea, not a brokeo one.

Inevitably, that is accompanied by mantras about opening up markets to US exports. This will become ever more a rhetorical refrain as the year unfolds and presidential primaries draw nearer. Japan will remain US public enemy number one but the EU is a solid number two.

The banana skirmish is still not resolved. It is only a prelude to the similarly compromised EU position on imports of US beef whose growth owes too much to injected hormones. The cold figures will trigger hot words and maybe conflagration.

Dangerous driving

IF. AS seems likely, BMW has chosen to present the worst possible face of Rover in its annual results, the strategy is a risky one. Depicting Rover as a basket case may not be the best way of squeezing the maximum subsidy from the Government. Aid of £100 million or £200 million cannot guarantee the future of Long-bridge but it could be an expensive way of keeping thousands in work until after the next election. The Richardson brothers of Merry Hill want to buy the site. Let them create new jobs there.

Relax the planning laws, says supermarket chief

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE chairman of Wm Morrison Supermarkets has called on the Government to loosen planning laws so that the Yorkshire-based retailer can compete effectively with its larger rivals such as Tesco and Asda. Morrisons has begun expanding into the South of Eng-

land but has been able to open only a handful of supermarkets because of the difficulty of winning planning consent for

Ken Morrison said yesterday that the company would like to open about ten stores every year, but is able to find only about five or six sites because of the planning restrictions.

due to publish in the next fortnight its findings into whether the big four supermarkers -Tesco, J Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway — are making excessively large profits. Mr Morrison said that allowing his company to open more stores would aid healthy competition in the sector.

There has to be a time shortly where the situation has to hange for the benefit of the general shopping public and the cost of living." Mr Morri-

The comments came as Wm Morrison reported better than expected profits for the year to

The Office of Fair Trading is January 31. On turnover of £2.53 billion (£2.29 billion) the company made pre-tax profit of £174.9 million (£147.4 million). On diluted earnings per sbare of 13.7 million (12.1p) the

company is paying a final dividend of 2p, giving a total for the year of 2.45p (2.1p).

Current trading figures show that Morrison's salead of the supermarket pack with 7.3 per cent like-for-like sales growth. While much of this is accounted for by sales of petrol. grocery sales are believed to be up more than 4 per cent likefor-like, which is about double

the current sector average.
The company opened five

new stores last year and bought five from competitors, taking its total number of stores to 95.

New superstores are under construction at Letchworth. Newcastle-under-Lyme. Nelson and Norwich. A large number of stores will be refurbished this year. Next year, stores are planned at Crewe, Thornbury (Bradford), Kettering, Wellingborough, Newcastle upon Tyne and Redcar.

The company's shares, which have come under pressure in recent weeks, closed 18p higher at 2981/p.

Tempus, page 30

United to unveil Acquisition planned \$111m purchase by Cobham

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

COBHAM, the aerospace en-UNTIED News and Media will gineering group, is ready to spend "several hundred miltoday announce its largest acquisition for nearly two years — the \$111 million (£68.5 million) purchase of Cominuing Medi-cal Education (CME) in the US. lion" pounds on an acquisi-tion (Paul Armstrong writes). Gordon Page, chief execu-tive, said that it reflected the CME is the largest for-profit provider of continuing edu-

impending rationalisation of the aerospace industry. cation for American physi-cians through 160 conferences Cobham announced yesterday that its pre-tax profit jumped 21.6 per cent last and seminars a year. It also produces more than 300 multimedia study kits for doctors and has trade magazines such as Psychiatric Times and

Medicine & Behaviour. Lord Hollick, chief executive

Ben Fidler, an analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, described the result as an outstanding set of fig-

Tempus, page 30

year to £63.6 million.

15.1 per cent.

A final dividend of 10.6p was declared, taking the year's payout to 15.25p, up turning itself into a business

worth \$3 billion a year. It will also reduce United's depend-ence on advertising - only II per cent of CME revenues come from advertisements.

Last year the US company had revenues of \$28 million and earnings before interest tax and depreciation of \$7 million. The price of about four times revenues appears high but United believes CME revenues will grow at 20 per cent a year and that the acquisition will be earn-

ings enhancing in its first year.

CME grants doctors professional credits for completing of United, the ITV and Express newspapers company which is CME courses or attending its meetings - the sort of credits doctors need to meet the requirements of US states in which they services group, sees the deal as strategically significant and takes United into a sector practice, as well as those of the American Medical Association.

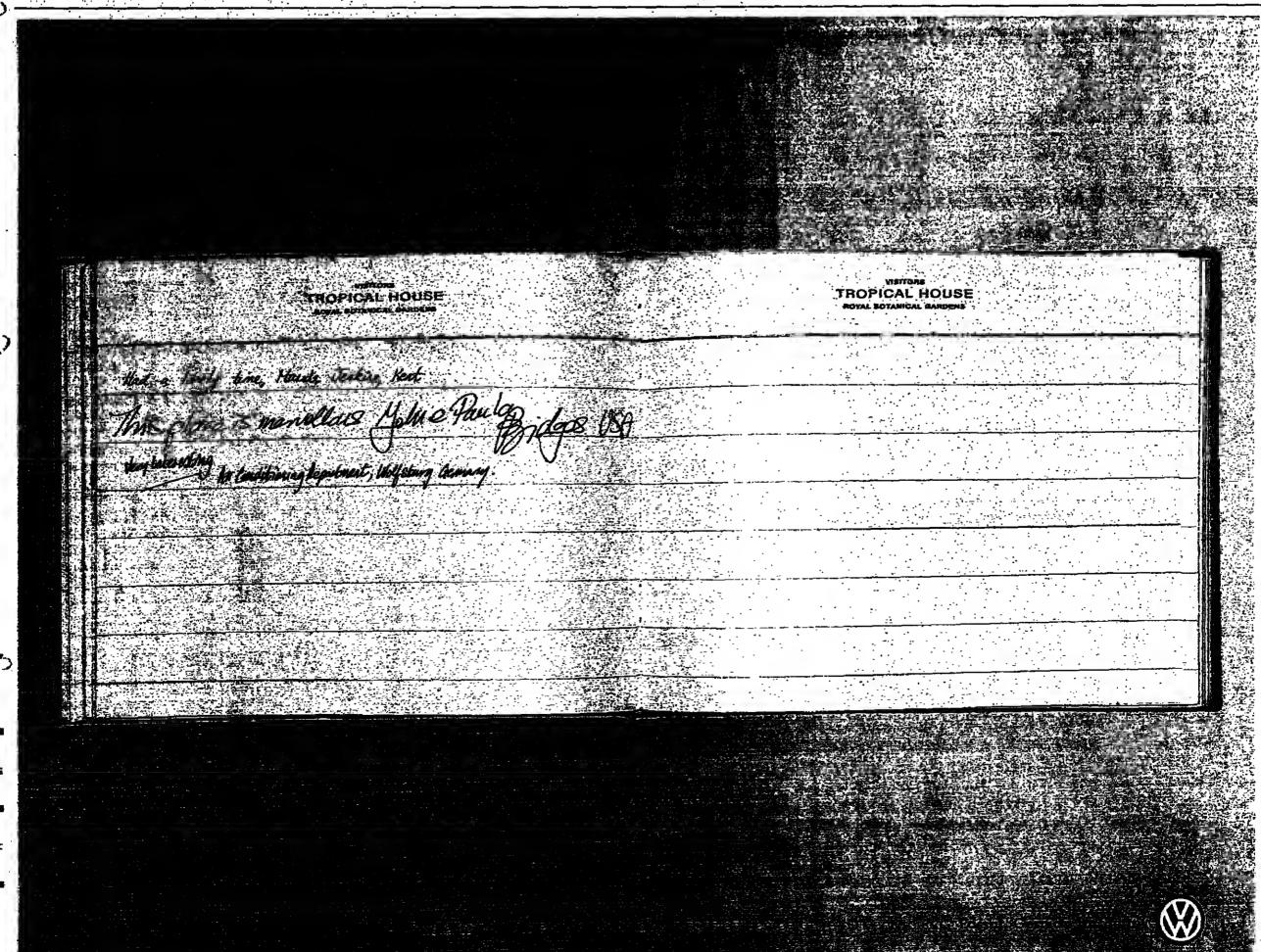
Pledge on stadium by Laing

WALES'S new rugby stadi-um will be ready for the inau-gural match against South Africa in June but at "substantially" less than full capacity, the project's contrac-tor said (Adam Jones writes). John Laing, the construc-tion firm, had to make a provision of £26.1 million to cover cost over-runs on the Millennium Stadium. It pledged the venue would be fully ready for the World Cup in October. Group pre-tax profits were £20.1 million (£32.2 million). Laing ordinary shares rose from 299%p to 311%p.

Diluted earnings per share

were 13.8p (24.7p). A dividend of 7p will be paid, mak-

ing a total of 10.75p (10.5p).



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STOCK MARKET



Oil sector gushes in spite of FTSE retreat

TRADING in two of our biggest blue chip companies ac-counted for more than 8 per cent of total turnover in the equity market yesterday.

Shell rose 15p to 412p as 64.36 million shares changed hands, while BP Amoco fin-ished 27p higher at £10.28 on turnover of 32.6 million. The combined turnover of shares in the two companies was 96.9 million, helping to lift total volume to 1.16 billion.

The top 100 companies now account for about 82 per cent of the total stock market value and the dealers say the gulf between blue chips and secondliners is getting bigger. Oil shares generally were in

demand ahead of the Opec conference next week which is expected to sanction a cut in oil output of two million barrels per day. Other oil companies 10 go better included Enterprise Oil, up 274 at 340p. It is still in merger talks with rival Lasmo, 344p dearer at 13814p.

The rest of the equity market was soon nursing sizeable losses after a promising start, but prices closed above their worst levels helped by an opening rally on Wall Street.

The FTSE 100 index finished 26.3 points down at 6.114.3, having been almost 66 points lower at one stage. Investors remained cau-

tious, taking full advantage of the Cheltenham Festival ahead of the "double witching" hour in London later today. This includes the expiry of the index option and futures and coincides with "triple witching" in New York.

But there were signs that traders were attempting to unwind their positions early to avoid the volatility that usually greets expiry time. This may have accounted for some of the wilder price movements, including Barclays Bank, down 40p at £17.83, after touching £17.38,

and Zeneca, up 79p at £25.99. EMI Group was one of the best performers among the top 100, rising 2014p to 41814p after a presentation by the new management.

PowerGen, which met bro-kers late on Wednesday, hardened 184p to 692p. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has raised its recommendation for the shares from 'market performer" to "market outperformer".

Smiths Industries came un-



Sir Martin Laing saw John Laing shares increase despite reporting lower profits and a hit on the Millennium Dome

shares traded. Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, is convinced that the shares are

overvalued by more than 100p. Hopes of a counterbid sent First Choice Holidays climbing 171:p to 1781:p. The specula-tors are pinning their hopes on Airtours, down tip at 490p, making an offer of 220p a share to block the agreed £1.45 billion

merger with Kuoni Reisen

Holdings, the Swiss package holiday group. First Choice insists that it has not received an approach from Airtours. Waterfall Holdings firmed

20 to 6112p after confirming reports in The Times that it wants to talk to rival European Leisure, unchanged at 92½p, about a merger of the two companies, with Waterfall's management taking the

THREADBARE FTSE 350 Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

LIFE seems to be getting tougher in the high street. The latest retail sales numbers made gloomy reading, showing a further decline in sales of clothing.

Retail sales generally in February, a dull month at the best of times in the high street, fell 0.3 per cent. The three-month growth rate, so far, is the lowest since January 1996.

The leading fashion retailers were marked sharply lower. Marks & Spencer led the way with a fall of 13%p to 379p, followed by Arcadia

14p to 1871:p. Next 13p to 719p, and Storehouse 2p to

The retail analyst team at BT Alex Brown, the broker, is cautious about the outlook for fashion retailers. But the analysts are ruling out the prospect of profit downgrades for the time be-

ing, at least. We know that conditions are still not very good, but this confirms it. We will probably wait until the fig-ures come out. We are still in the middle of the results

lead in the combined entire This would scupper Euro pean's recently announce merger with Allied Leisure.

Norcros, that takeover fav ourite, rose 21/2p to 81/2p after a line of 3.65 million shares was snapped up at the 79p level. HR Owen, the vehicle dis

tributor, climbed 221/2p to 165 in response to profits new and the purchase of 968.62 shares by Nicholas Lancaster managing director. He now speaks for 4.5 million shares, or 26.5 per cent.

The view looks good these days for John Laing ever though the construction group and housebuilder run by Sir Martin Laing, chairman, has taken a hit on the Millennium Dome. Profits were down 60 per cent, but the price rose 11/2p to 3114p with the "A" shares 12p better at 311½p. The group is confident about the future. London & Edinburgh Pub-

lishing firmed ¼p to 9¼p after returning to the black last year despite heavy write-offs. The publisher and marketing specialist is confident about prospects and is looking for acquisitions.

Share purchases by the chairman lifted Ocean Group 124p to 8924p. Nigel Rich has bought 3,895 shares at 8784p and now owns 21,895.

Rage Software finished 14p firmer at 164p as some large blocks of shares changed hands. Michael Mason, a dir-ector, has bought 150,000 shares at 154 p and now owns 599.125. Another director, Brode, has also picked up 75,000 at 14½p, taking his holding to 200,000, but Paul Finnegan has sold 154,000 at 14½p. He still holds 6.12 million, or 2.43 per cent.

☐ GILT-EDGED: It was a day of consolidation in the bond market after recent strong gains. The short end sported small gains, reflecting lingering hopes of a cut in bank base rates next month.

series of the long gilt finished 2p dearer at £117.70 as 27,000 contracts were completed. In shorts, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished 11p higher

In the futures pit, the June

at £106.91, but at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 lost 7p at £148.09. higher in early trade, led by gains among financial and semiconductor issues. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average

was up 23.03 at 9.902.44.

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Vote of disquiet

SHAREHOLDERS in Chesterfield Properties meet on Monday to vote on a proposal to dispose of about a quarter of the company's assets.

Attention focuses on two things. First, the properties to be sold are slated to change hands at a price below net asset value. Moreover, the market may have moved up since the deal was struck. If the shift has taken place, it widens the sale price discount. Secondly, the properties involved, once disposed of by Chesterfield, are to be managed by companies con-trolled by Robert Maxted. Mr Maxted is currently Chesterfield's chief executive, but will resign to take up the new role if - and only if

 the disposal proposal is approved.

The taste left is sour. But Chesterfield is an unhappy case with its shares, caught in the small company trap, having consistently underperformed. The stock has traded at a significant discount to net assets for some time. In the circumstances management is absoluteright to seek release of shareholder value. Moreover, while the deal struck leaves something to be desired, if anyone were willing to make a better offer they would surely have shown their hand by now.

With Roger Wingate, the chairman, speaking for about 30 per cent of the shares it is unlikely that the deal will be voted down. But the humpy shareholding could work to independent shareholders' advantage. They can vote against the deal to register their disquiet at the way in which the disposal has been arranged. This will draw the appropriate corporate governance line in the sand, and may even prompt a renegotiation of the sale price. But it is unlikely to wreck the plan altogether. So vote against.

St James's Place

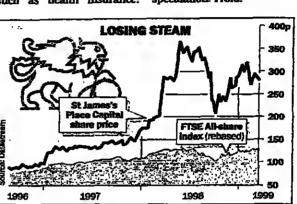
ONCE again Sir Mark Weinberg has demonstrated that he is a step ahead of most of his peers. His decision to change the charging struc-ture on the pension policies sold by J Rothschild Assurance, the main trading divi-sion of St James's Place Capital, is a pragmatic move flow-ing from the political and commercial realities.

The Government wants pensions to be as flexible and transparent as possible so that people are encouraged to save for retirement. As a re-sult it is determined that companies abandon the practice of front-loading pension sav-ings policies with fees. Companies that ignore new Labour's enthusiasm for level charging - levying fees evenly across the savings term are missing a critical trick. Nevertheless, there are

drawbacks. JRA's move away from front-end loading intro-duces uncertainty for SJPC's earnings. Will JRA's much admired salesforce be able to sell enough single premium policies to compensate for the decline in profitability of regular premium sales? Will they succeed in selling other, more fucrative lines of business such as health insurance?

The dividend policy does not commend the shares, either. SJPC has a good history of returning surplus capital to shareholders and more could come if the company sells its stake in the "vulture fund" Life Assurance Holding Cor-

poration. In the meantime, Prudential holds a 28 per cent stake, which excites takeover speculation. Hold.



Wm Morrison

AS SUPERMARKET groups go, Morrisons is one of the smallest. It would like to be a lot bigger, and believes that it is held back from significant expansion by the Government's tough planning regulations. But despite the hostile planning environment and the competition of the likes of Tesco, Asda. Sainsbury's and Safeway. Morrisons has not just survived, it has thrived. Low prices and an innovative service offering has done the trick. Many of the ideas adopted in recent years by the big four super-market chains were pionecred at Morrisons.

It has expanded reasonably fast in the past year by opening new stores and buying some from the Co-op tion that the Government is now paying to the power of will somehow be allowed to

open more new stores. It is hard to see how this could happen, but anything that keeps the big four in check could well work to the advantage of Morrisons. Anyway, with like-for-like sales rising at about double the sector average, Morrisons is doing impressivly well without new

store openeings.

The shares trade on a rating equivalent to the market average and at a premium to the food retailing sector's. But they should continue to rise in value. Buy.

Cobham

WHEN it comes to investor satisfaction. Cobham, the aerospace engineer, gets ticks in most of the right boxes. It won more approval yester-day with a 21.6 per cent rise in profits. The advance was far enough ahead of expec-

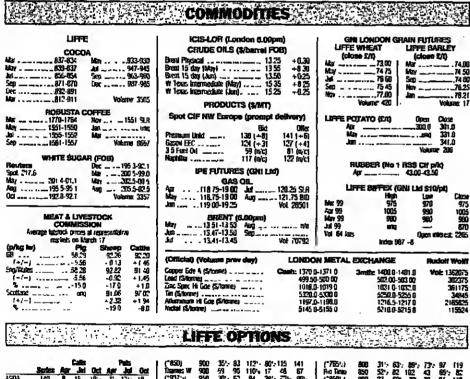
strengths by revealing a 10 per cent increase in its order

book. It has £735 million of work lined up and said that a further £100 million of busi-

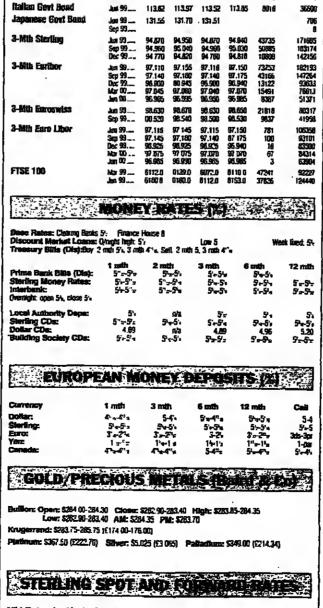
ness was all but bagged.

It also said it has "several hundred million" pounds to spend on acquisitions while it can maintain capital expendican manipun capital expendi-ture and research and devel-opment spending. For a gad-getry company, this is vital. The strong result and bright outlook fuelled a 5 per cent jump in Cobham's share

price yesterday. This puts it on a future earnings multiple of 18 times, which represents a full price, but Cobham is set to enjoy solid, long-term, earn-ings growth from the next round of orders under its contract with Airbus. There are fears that aerospace markets are weakening, but Airbus is seen as being in better shape than Boeing. Cobham also hopes to secure contracts for the Eurofighter by the end of the year. Accumulate.



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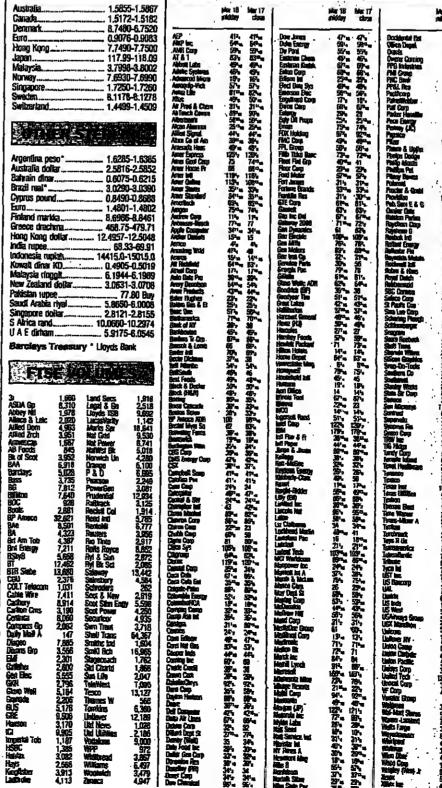
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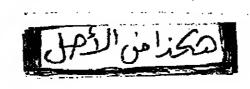
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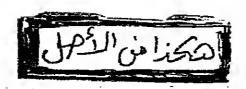
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revolution in union structure has long tion in terms. The movement still struggles to shake off its image of cloth caps and class conflict. Yet a revolution in the way the entire union movement functions is exactly what John Monks outlined in a low-key launch earlier this week. The softly spoken General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress is adamant that unions must streamline and become more efficient if they are to prosper into the

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Mr Monks's model is unashamedly European. He wants to see the union movement become more like that in The Netherlands, where the Dutch FMV trade union movement is dominated by just three unions based around the manufacturing, service and public sectors.

A union revolution shaped by business

This is in part a specific response to the new environment. Unions fear that gains enjoyed under the new Labour Government could be squandered in a bout of ma-fia-style turf wars. There is also a more fundamental acceptance that the workplace has changed irrevocably. Unions sprung up representing specific trades in the days hen most workers were like. ly to remain in the same job for life. The legacy is a distinct over-concentration in the dwindling manufacturing sector and a failure effectively to penetrate newly created service-sector workforces. The

TUC wants to redress this im-

balance without the kind of

unseemly infighting between the AEEU and TGWU that has marred the recruitment of the non-TUC Cabin Crew 89. which represents British Airways staff.

Two decades ago such a radical reform plan for one of the pillars of the country's political economy would have quickly become a key political battle-ground. These days, however, union initiatives are largely met by a profound political silence. The Fairness at Work legislation represents the most that Tony Blair is prepared to offer the unions. Even now, with the legislation on its way to Parliament, there have been hints that he may yet backtrack. . The Conservatives are also

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

ALASDAIR

wary of treading back into the minefield of union relasuccess of the 1980s de-unionisation Although Conservative policy is a long way from becoming fully de-veloped, the thrust

from John Red-

Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, has been to attack the creeping business burden of all Labour's labour market reforms. The aim is to develop a coherent anti-regulation campaign

ready for the next election.

The new union laws undoubtedly form part of this target but Mr Redwood wants to focus on the whole issue of regulation rather than begin a fresh round of union-bashing. The signs are that, while

there may be amendments to the Fairness at Work legislation if the Conservatives regain power, there is little chance that the whole framework will be swept away.

Sponse to the union plans it must inevitably come from employers. The temptation will be for many businesses to wash their hands of the issue or even indulge in some di-vide and rule tactics, actually encouraging the kind of inter-necine fighting that the TUC is desperate to avoid. The prospect of a mega-union led by some latter-day Scargill is not particularly appetising to British business. Business may well prefer the current position, where if unions have

to be recognised at all, compa-nies can indulge in a union "beauty parade" to select the

British Industry recognises, the Monks plans provide a chance for business to help to remodel British industrial relations for the next century. Practically speaking, many businesses would prefer simplified union structures because dealing with a plethora of unions within one company is both administratively and strategically complex.

More importantly, however, employers have an outstanding opportunity to encourage an even more fundamental overhaul in the philosophy of the union movement. The restructuring of the union movement will inevitably involve a form of natural selec-

best able to effectively represent their members surviving, while those who remain wedtions becoming a foomote in union history. By working with unions prepared to accept partnership rather than confrontation and embrace the previously radical notion that companies must maintain their locus on competitiveness and profits, employers can do much to influence the outcome of the debate.
For chunks of the union

movement, the idea that employers have a leading role to play in reform will remain anathema. Yet some of the more moderate unions, and in particular the AEEU, are quietly encouraging businesses to make their voices heard in the restructuring process. Business should not pass up the opportunity to answer

American evangelist brings Britain the word on the Web

The Cisco kid

says Internet

education is vital for jobs, writes

Chris Ayres

ohn Chambers has been likened to both an arms dealer and an evan-gelist. As head of Cisco Systems, the \$170 billion (£105 billion) manufacturer of networking equipment — the little black boxes that make the Internet work - he makes a fortune every time a company wages war with a competitor

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the 49-year-old executive whose personal stake in Cisco is now worth more than half a billion dollars, spends much of his time jetting around the world telling whoever will listen that the Internet "will change everything". So far, politicians and busi-ness leaders have been quen-Ing up to meet him.
Mr Chambers claims to

have met every government: leader in Asia - including Jiang Zemin in China — apart from President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea. He also recently met Tony Blair in London, and he sits on one of Bill Clinton's trade advisory boards in the US. This week he is in Britain to meet Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Minister, to dis-

cuss Internet education. With an accent from the Deep South, tasselled brogues. and preacher's eyes. Mr Chambers appears to be a JR Ewing for the 21st century. He talks at an almost comic speed, and with an urgency rarely heard from his British counterparts. indeed, you often feel as though he is trying save you from damnation, rather than convince you that the Internet

will revolutionise business. The message Mr Chambers is delivering this week, howiell Mr Cunningham that Brit-



Medium message: John Chambers says Britain's education system is not yet giving people skills needed for the Internet

ain's education system is not yet giving young people the skills needed to compete in the internet economy, and that fewer people are now online in Britain than in Germany. Mr Chambers says his belief that "education is the equaliser in life" was drummed into him by his parents - both of whom were doctors - and inspired him to spend nine years studying for a law de-gree and then for an MBA.

There are 50,000 IT jobs open here in the UK, and the avcrage IT job, whether it's here or anywhere else in the world, pays 50 to 100 per cent more than the average private sector job." Mr Chambers said. "That shows that we are not training people for where the jobs are.

We're being brutally blunt with all governments, and saying that education systems have to change, or countries are going 10 get left behind."

Cisco has already set up "networking academies" throughout the US - with some recently opening in the UK — to tackle this problem.

Mr Chambers also has a word of warning for his own industry, which has recently undergone massive consolidation. In January, Lucent Technologies, the former telecoms equipment division of AT&T. bought its US rival Ascend for \$20 billion. Several months earlier, Canada's Nortel paid \$9.1 billion for Bay Networks. Both deals were regarded by

analysts as necessary for

Lucent and Nortel to keep up with Cisco. However, many have questioned the financial logic of the deals, especially the enormous price paid for Ascend. Siemens, the German electronics group, recently described the deal as "throwing away shareholders' money".

Mr Chambers takes a similarly negative view. He said that most recent deals have been belated, overpriced, and are likely to fail. "Shareholders will look back and say, not only did the acquisition not work, but the price paid for it, in hindsight, was extremely high," he said. "The acquisition prices were probably 50 to 100 per cent higher than what we would have paid."

His judgment of Lucent's

deal is particularly harsh. "I think the mathematical odds are that it will fail," Mr Chambers said. Look at it in terms of common characteristics: look at it in terms of common vision of how the industry is going to evolve, and the role each of those companies are going to play in that evolution; look at it

in terms of short-term wins. The most important thing in the short term is to realise that you are acquiring people, not technology or current mar-ket share. You must ask yourself if you can keep the people you have acquired. You must also consider long-term strategie advantage, and the similariof cultures and chemistry, and finally, for large acquisitions, geographic proximity. According to my estimates, it

doesn't work." Cisco's own acquisition strategy has been on a much smallscale to Lucent's and Nortel's, with the company holding on to employees by handing out stock. Mr Chambers - who says a big deal is "unlikely", but does not rule one out — said: "We've been the best stock to have in the world for the past ten years, and we've shared it with our employees in a way that no one has ever done before in history. I don't have to explain to any employee at Cisco the relationship between customer satisfaction and stock

He is particularly fond of

buying tiny Silicon Valley start-up companies. "Silicon Valley is the most ex-

citing place in the world," he said. "It doesn't matter what sex you are, what age you are, what your religion is, or who your parents are: if you're good, we love you, and if you' re not, you're on your own."
A resident in the Los Altos hills above Silicon Valley himself, Mr Chambers

spends his spare time downloading music from the Internet on to his electronic piano. Cisco itself began life as a Silicon Valley start-up in 1996, founded by Len Boszck and Sandy Lerney, a geeky aca-demic couple at Stanford Uni-versity. While trying to send messages to each other via their computers, they invented "routers" — devices which act like signposts for information travelling across computer net-

works - and set up a company, Cisco, to develop the technology. Needless to day, routers ended up becoming a central part of the Internet, giving Cisco dominance in a market growing at a ferocious speed. The couple initially funded the company on credit cards.

then brought io venture capitalists. However, the founders and venture capitalists fell out, with Mr Bosack and Ms Lerney leaving Cisco and selling their shares in the company in the early 1990s. Then, the shares were worth only 25 cents. Now, they are worth more than \$106. Mr Bosack is now believed to be studying "extraterrestrial intelligence" while Ms Lerney runs a cosmetics company.

Mr Chambers joined Cisco in 1991 - having worked at Wang and IBM previously a year after the company floated on the Nasdaq stock exchange in the US.

isco is now Nasdag's third largest company, behind Intel and Microsoft, Its shares may trade on a staggering rating of 129 times earnings, but, unlike many Internet companies, it made a thumping after-tax profit last year of \$1.36 billion, on sales of \$10 billion.

The enormity of the task facing him is clear to Mr Chambers: to maintain Cisco's dominance in a rapidly moving mar-ket, with the US Government's anti-trust regulators breathing down his neck. The company has already faced one inquiry into whether it tried to carve up the market for data communications equipment with Lucent and Nortel - an accu-

sation Mr Chambers denies. "I like my peers, and I enjoy competing, and I think my company will be stronger because of competing ethically and above board," he said. "It means I'll have more market share in five years' time than if we were more aggressive."

Moulton turns Alchemy into pure gold

hey have not discovered a way of turning base metals into gold, but in the past two years the Alchemy Partners have certainly found the secret to turn-

ing a good deal. The management buyout of Goldsmiths, the chain of up-market jewellers, is the latest in a long line of deals by the venture capitalist firm, which was set up in January 1997 by Jon Moulton, managing partner, and four partners. They included Martin Bolland, the former chief executive of Lonrho's Princess Metropole Hotel chain, and Eric Walters. with whom Moulton had worked at Schroder Ventures.

It was through Schroder Ventures that Moulton and Walters had got to know Gold-smiths, and Jurek Piasecki, its chairman and chief executive. Eleven years ago it backed an earlier buyout of Goldsmiths from Oriflame. When Moulton moved from Schroders to Apax he also spent

tempt to buy the Ernest Jones jewellery chain from the Signet Group. Another deal that is in the pipeline, but appears to be in a fairly parlous state, is the the proposed MBO of Swallow Group's Vaux Breweries. This follows the recent acquisition by Alchemy of Ushers of Trowbridge, and a failed attempt to arrange a buyout of Regal Hotels Alchemy is keen on ho-tel deals, and is looking at at

many fruitless months work-

ing with Piasecki on an at-

buyout. Some of Alchemy's attempted retail deals have also fallen to one side in recent months,

least one other management

most notably the proposed acquisition of Allied Carpets, and of Watches of Switzerland. And some of the companies that have not gone to Alchemy have been less than flattering about its methods, suggesting that it has tried to rush them into deals that, in their view, would have seriously undervalued the companies in

Last year, Alchemy per-formed the feat, astonishing for such a recent arrival, of becoming the second-largest provider of private equity in the UK. It was behind only 3i and ahead of such established names as NatWest Equity Partners and Electra Fleming.

Acquisitions Monthly, which prepared the league table, noted Moultoo's ability to extract value from difficult deals. It also remarked that his relaxed attitude to risk produces the odd poorly performing investment among the many successes". Alchemy targeted a number of turnround situations, including Sunley Turriff, the construction company, and Moore Paragon, a designer and manufacturer of business forms and la

The total number of deals carried out by Alchemy last year was 21, well behind 3i's But the value was a hefty £234 million, not too far shy of 3i's £309 million.

With so many small quoted companies giving up on an uncaring stock market. Alche-my's skills in returning them safely to the private sector look certain to be called upon frequently for the rest of this year.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BUSINESS LETTER

Experience is key to work with Britain in Europe

From Judith Mayhew

Dear Sir. The City Diary implied on Thursday March 18 that my membership of Britain in Europe was only linked to my role in the Corporation of London. Whilst that experience and

viewpoint may be of value to the task force, it misrepresents entirely the value brought to the party as a result of the stat-ure and profile of my firm

Wilde Sapte. We have played a significant role in Europe, advising major financial institutions of EMU matters. Our partner in charge of our Brussels office James Ashe-Taylor was profiled in "A mission to explain the new currency" in The

Times on December 23, 1998.

Furthermore we worked with NatWest and KPMG (also involved with Britain in Business) to produce an EMU

guide for business. Ironically we, and not a Frankfurt law firm, wrote the Euro Planner Fact Book for the German Chambers of Commerce, which they are now using throughout Eu-

Surely this is a fairer portrayal of the experience the Britain in Europe group is availing itself of in inviting a lawyer on to its membership.

Yours faithfully. JUDITH MAYHEW, Director of Training. London EC4M 7WS.

King rat

AS WE await the forthcoming Nick Leeson biopic with varying degrees of anticipation. I learn of one significant detail that is unlikely to be in the film, which stars Ewan Trainspotting McGregor and Anna Brookside Friel.

It is known that one unnamed Hong Kong fund manager fingered Leeson four years ago: we have never known who this was. My indepth researches suggest oh, all right, someone has told me - that it was none other than Colin Armstrong, at the time with Jardine Fleming. Ty source is reliably close to rlemings itself, which owns half of the business.

This is ironic, because Armstrong was himself at the centre of another scandal at Jardine the next year, the so-called "rat trades" affair that cost the firm a £700,000 fine, £12 million in compensation and its reputation. He has



since gone to ground and is unlikely to be the subject of a forthcoming film.

THE level of bonuses at Merrill Lynch seems to be breed-ing a degree of dissatisfaction. One of the top-rated European telecoms team has been poached by a rival. Simon Carrington is joining Schroders. Other rumours of top-level changes at the American investment bank are being denied. We shall see.

Bull market SOME startling news from

Guildhall. The forthcoming elections for two sheriffs are going to be as close to a genuine democratic poll as the City has seen for some years now.

Someone has passed me the unofficial list of four candidates, and it seems even officials at the Corporation of London are conceding that it is an open field and anyone could

The first is Robert Finch, an-

alderman and very much the official candidate. If he wins, he would be only a couple of years off being Lord Mayor. But be is standing against Anthony Bull, a long-time rebel. The other two are Pauline Halliday. a member of the court of common council, and Hingh Harris, once at the Bank of England. Both, 100, are "official" candidates, that favoured by Guildhall:



ing, there is every chance that the vote among liverymen will be split, so allowing in Bull, who has attracted sympathy because of the way he has been treated in the past. If he wins. there is little to stop him being Lord Mayor in due course, an outturn that would deeply upset the powers that be.

COLIN CHILD, finance director of National Express, was startled to run into a youth wearing a T-shirt featuring the company's new logo, a sort of stylised NX. National Express may be fashionable at the moment, having inspired a hit pop single, but the new logo hadn't even been an-

nounced yet. Surprise turned to concern when he discovered that the Tshirt, far from celebrating his coaches and trains, was from Next, which has patented the NX logo for the past seven years. National Express is only using the logo on its letterheads, but it might be best not to tip off Next anyway. So: don't tell anyone I told you.

Cashing in
LAST week I wrote of the visit
to Britain of King Mswati III
of Swaziland. After visiting the City, he attended a seminar of British firms keen to invest in

his country.

I now learn that the King has used the trip to take swift action to stamp out the grow ing problem in his homeland of counterfeit bank notes. In the past fortnight alone police have seized notes worth

King Mswati visited the Basingstoke offices of De La Rue on Thursday and immediately hired the firm to produce notes in future, replacing a German competitor which has had the iob for several decades.

I suppose that if you are a king you can do that sort of thing quite quickly. Incidentally, when I wrote of his visit to the City we ran a picture of the wrong king. Here is the cor-

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk



King Mswati III of Swaziland

The Index-Tracking PEP

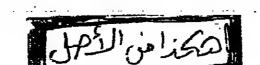
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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999 Mansfield

issues warning

Shares of Mansfield Brewery closed 23p lower at 210p after the brewer and pub operator gave warning that full-year profits would be below market expectations. HSBC Securities cut its forecast for the year to March 27 from £22.4 million to £21 million.

A 4.5 per cent decline in like-for-like sales in its managed pub estate and falling beer sales were blamed. Mansfield is taking a £1.9 million excep-tional charge against the cost of a restructuring aimed at saving £1.6 million in annual costs.

Nedlloyd sale

Nedlloyd, the Dutch shipping and transport group, has raised 1.175 billion guilders (£360 million) through the sale of its European transport and distribution operations to Deutsche. Post Nedlloyd's sole re-maining business is a 50 per cent stake in the P&O Nedlloyd joint venture with Britain's P&O.

Centre refocus

Town Centre Securities, the property investment and development company, said revenues in the second half would be affected by the refocusing of its property port-folio. In the first half pretax profits rose to £7.1 million from £5.9 million, helped by a £1.9 million surplus from disposals. The interim dividend rises to L3p a share from L27p.

HR Owen ahead

Nick Lancaster, managing director of HR Owen, the upmarket car dealer, has acquired 968,000 shares in the company for £1.38 million, lifting his stake above 26 per cent. Yesterday the company reported a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6 million in 1998. A 5p final dividend makes a total of 10p, up 25 per cent.

Fisher falls

James Fisher, the shipping and port services company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £8.78 million to £3.85 million in 1998 after charging £2.86 million against the closure of operations at the port of Newhaven. The total dividend rises to 3.75p a share from 3.2p, with a final 2.35p.

Churchill slides

Shares of Churchill China fell 9%p to 86p after the tableware manufacturer said the first half of 1999 was likely to see a further deterioratioo in profitability. The company reported 1998 pre-tax profits of £1.47 million, down from £6.1 million. There is no final dividend, leaving the total dividend at just 3p (14.3p).

National Express plan aims to speed franchise renewal

NATIONAL EXPRESS, Britain's largest train operator, is to try for an early extension of its five rail franchises by offer-ing to link the level of subsidies it receives with performance.

Phil White, chief executive. will tell John Prescott, the Dep-uty Prime Minister, that he is also prepared to share its revenues with Railtrack rather than pay fixed charges to the track operator.
The company intends to

sumbit its proposals in the next few months - effectively giving Mr Prescott a chance to remould the financial system currently governing the rail network.

Mr White said: "We will have finished our proposals in the next few months. Linking subsidy to performance would not worry me at all — we perform well, and have nothing to fear."

Mr Prescott is known to be dissatisfied with the current fixed subsidy system which delivers heavy state payouts' regardless of how many trains are run on time. He has made it known that the Government intends to grant its first franchise extensions this year, and would like to reduce the number of companies that run the 25 networks. The five National Express

networks cover 3,910 miles out of the entire 15,200-mile train network. Three of its franchises expire by 2004 and two in

The company yesterday re-



ported that its rail division lifted underlying profits by 32 per cent over 1998, to £25.9 million. Group pre-tax profits came in at £97 million (£54.8

The core National Express coach division saw profits decline slightly to £11.6 million (£11.9 million) which it blames

partly on Easter travel being affected by bad weather.

pany's overseas expansion strategy will be focused on Australia and the US. It has been shortlisted for four of Melbourne's five privatised train and train networks beating opposition from its

UK rivals Stagecoach and FirstGroup.
In the US, it said it is in ad-Mr White said the com-

vanced talks with "a number" of small school bus companies. Mr White said: "We have got to the due diligence stage. We need to get some critical mass in the school bus market around a few states and build from there."

The UK bus division increased underlying profits by 12 per cent to £45.6 million. It has set aside about £30 million which it could spend helping lo-

cal councils with road improvements and building bus lanes. Earnings were 54.8p (45.1p) a share. The total dividend rises to lop (13.5p) with a final 11.3p. ings of £8 million.

Fall in price of oil forces **Borneo** to scrap payout

DEPRESSED oil prices have forced British-Borneo Oil and Gas to scrap its final dividend. Yesterday the company re-ported a net loss of £82 million for 1998, compared with a profit of £14 million for the previous 12 months, as a result of provisions and write-offs prethe price of crude.

Total exceptional charges were £62.9 million, which in-cluded a writedown of £48.9 million against the impairment of fixed assets and capitalised goodwill and a £14 million provision after the abandonment of two North Sea oilfields.

Last year's average oil price of \$13.34 a barrel was a 22-year low, and 23 per cent below the 1997 average. The effect of low oil prices and production delays at the Morpeth field in the Gulf of Mexico was to reduce cashflow and substantially increase year-end borrowings.

The company has identified assets for disposal as it seeks to reduce debts, which at the year end were £377.4 million

(E55.4 million). The merger with Hardy Oil & Gas, a rival exploration and production company, was completed last October and has achieved annualised cost sav-

Alan Gaynor, chief executive, said it was too early to say if oil prices were now off their lows, but said he would be surprised if Brent crude was not back in the \$15 to \$20 a barrel range within 12 to 18 months. He said: "The key thing is

we're running the business on a basis where it is robust, and indeed increasingly robust, at \$10, just to make sure we're OK should we have a pro-longed period of low oil price." British-Borneo's net production is set to increase fivefold to some 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) over the next 18 months. Output climbed to 20,274 boepd last year from 14,174 boepd in 1997. Mr Gaynor said that the Morpeth field, which incurred substantial cost overruns before entering production in October, is now set to reach peak

rels per day, next month.
In the absence of a final dividend the total dividend falls to lp a share from 2.75p. Briosh-Borneo shares fell 2p to 134p esterday, against a 12-month

production, about 35,000 bar-

high of 399p ☐ Edinburgh Oil & Gas reported a 1998 loss of £780,000 before tax, compared with a profit of £509,000 in 1997. The annual dividend is held at 0.3p a share.

Deutsche Bank raises £2bn to fund takeover

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest commercial bank, is raising DM6 billion (£2 billion), to help to fund its takeover of Bankers Trust in America.... The cash call is much higher than expected. When the \$10.1 billion (£6 billion) Bankers Trust deal was announced last year, Deutsche Bank said it would need to raise about

Despite lawsuits by Holocaust victims, Herr Breuer said vesterday that he expects Deutsche Bank's acquisition of Bankers Trust to be completfrom DML02 billion in 1997.

extraordinary gains from a special bonus dividend paid out by DaimlerChrysler last year. Deutsche Bank has a 12 per cent stake in Daimler-Chrysler.

Financial crises in Russia, South-East Asia and Latin America pushed trading profits down nearly 4 per cent to DM3.47 billion.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

DM4 billion. Yesterday Rolf Breuer, Deutsche Bank chairman, said the larger than expected capital increase was also necessary to take full advantage of opportunities to penetrate the European market. .

ed by June. -

Deutsche Bank is one of several German companies facing class action suits in the US filed by Holocaust survivors. accusing them of profiting from slave labour or the Nazi expropriation of Jewish assets. The lawsuits could delay regulatory approval of the takeover. Deutsche Bank also announced that net profits more than trebled to DM3.38 billion Earnings were boosted by

Dialog admits to slow progress of integration

By ROBERT LEA

INVESTORS in Dialog Corporation, Dan Wagner's online information business formerly known as MAID, breathed a. sigh of relief as the company's full-year results did not throw up any new warnings about the company's progress.

This, and market curiosity over Mr Wagner's plans for the group's fledgeling Internet software and e-commerce businesses saw the shares put on 11 per cent yesterday.

The company yesterday admitted that the integration of its £265 million acquisition in 1997 of Knight Ridder Informa-

tion has been slower than it had hoped, while revenues, which it said would be up 10 per cent, were in fact flat. Servicing the cost of the KRI

acquisition and the ensuing debt mountain, standing at £157 million at year end was the "key objective" of the board. In addition to paying interest charges, the company has debt repayments totalling £13.5 million this year that will fall due from May. Mr Wagner said that the company may seek to reschedule the debt.

There has been speculation that the Internet and e-commerce businesses may be floated. However, Mr Wagner said that the company would rather bring in investing partners or raise money through licensing agreements.

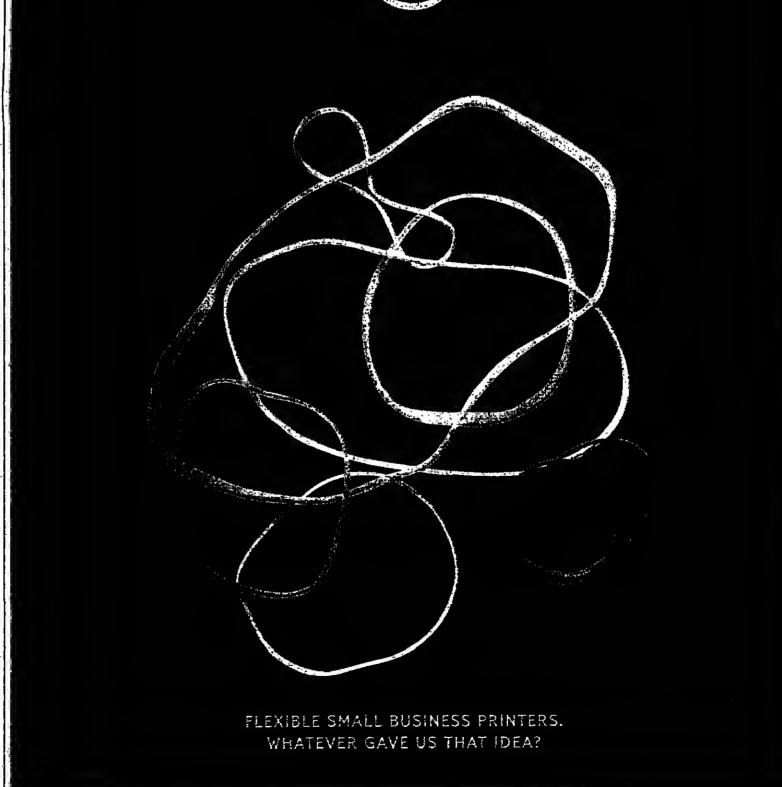
Revenues in 1998, skewed by a first full-year inclusion of KRI, came in at £170 million producing pre-tax profits of £5.5 million after exceptional costs of £2.8 million. Earnings per share were 2.9p against losses per share of 20.5p in 1997. The shares, which fell as low as 47p, were up 9½p to 94%p yesterday. Last summer they peaked at 2361/2p.

McAlpine promise on growth

ALFRED MCALPINE yesterday promised that better land purchasing will be key to achieving targets of earnings increases of at least 15 per cent a year for the next three years

(Adam Jones writes). Shares of the housebuilding and construction group ticked up from 167p to 174p on the

news of the pledge.
For 1998, profits before tax and exceptionals rose 41 per cent to £34 million on turnover up 9 per cent at £720 million. The operating profit margin from private housing rose from 8.7 per cent to 10.2 per cent. House reservations are currently up 14 per cent on 1998. A dividend of 4.8p per share will be paid, making a total of 8p (7.5p) for the year.





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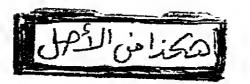




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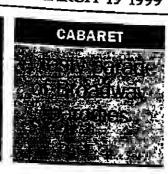


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MARCH 19 1991



THE

POP Post-orgasmic chill with Skunk Anansie PAGE 36



as the country that gave a grateful world such earthy figures as Mad Max, Dame Edna Everage, Crocodile Dundee and Germaine Greer now turned into a land of prudes?
Can the nation of sun, surf, sex and sheep suddenly have succumbed to sad suburban prissiness? So it sad suburban prissiness: so it seems. For Australia appears to be on the verge of banning Lolita, the recent film version of Nabokov's novel by the British director Adri-

an Lyne - even though its censor has approved the movie. What's more, the Prime Minister himself, John Howard, has led the charge of the repressives against what they describe as a sick and bizarre portrayal of paedophilia. Howard seems to be unaware that the film, starring Jeremy Irons in his customary world-weary dissolute mode, has aiready been screened in 19 countries (including Britain and America) without inciting any noticeable breakdowns in public order or morality.
Or perhaps he believes that Aussies have such chaste sensibilities,:

And now, the Prim Minister of Australia

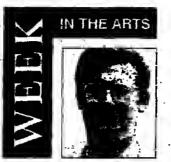
But maybe the real reason for. Howard's threat to ban Lolita is that Lolita is a "serious artistic simple political calculation — as his opponents claim. His Government's fragile majority largely de-pends on the goodwill of one crusty independent senator, Brian Harradine, and Harradine is a noted campaigner in the Mary Whitehouse mould, tireless in his tirades against media "smut" wherever he imagines it to be lurking. Howard needs Harradine's support, and so Harradine's fixations have become Howard's as well. Thus are the great issues of artistic freedom decided in one of the world's most stri-

dentity self-righteous democracies.

Of course, Howard's opposition to Lolita provokes fury in liberal Australia. The Office of Film and Literature Classification, defending its "RIS" certificate for Lolita,

poor lambs, that they need more even cites experts from the chilling-protection than people elsewhere. In maned Australian Institute of Criminology to support its view work" that "does not offend against standards accepted by rea-sonable adults" (as opposed to Prime Ministers, presumably). Now the Aussie press is hurling

itself into the debate, though its contributions don't always clarify the central issues. The Canberra Times, for instance, applauds Howard's censorial instincts, but says he is banning the wrong things. Instead of attacking the "sexual naughtiness" of Lolita, the paper says, he should be combating "Hollywood's unchecked born-bardment of this sweet little country with foreign, cynical, unAustralian, psychosis-inducing, massacreinciting products. Phew. Or as they say in Canberra, strewth. I wish I could come to Austral-



RICHARD MORRISON

ia's aid, in this hour of national crisis, by offering my own views on Lolita, but I can't. When I went to see the film - out of a purely pro-fessional desire to be corrupted beyond redemption, you understand — I am afraid I fell askep during what older film crioes call "the first

reel". You may surmise three reasons for that: a) I had sipped enthusiastically from a range of fine wines earlier in the evening; b) I am so far advanced beyond normal depravity that the film made no impression on my jaded senses; c) it is a crashingly boring adapta-

tion of a grossly overrated book.

Alas, all three are true. Australians should really find something better to do with their time than huffing and puffing over this piffling effort. No wonder they have started to lose at cricket. If they carry on trying to reinstate the pious and hypocritical morality of the Victorian era, they will soon be ap-plying to rejoin the British Empire.

eanwhile in America a different sort of cultural clash is exciting the chartering classes. A Princeton University music professor is suing a rock

ith the Edinburgh

Pestival's Perrier

Award having been several shades of

green in recent years (Dylan Moran and Tommy Tiernan

take a bow), the visibility of

Irish comedians in the UK has

Accordingly, the live come

dy circuit in Ireland is expand-

ing to meet the demand. Last

year saw the opening of Dub-

lin's Laughter Lounge, and now

comes the inaugural Guinness

Sit-Down, Stand-Up Comedy

Festival (organised by the Cor-

duray Camedy Club), which is

currently running in Dublin's

Vicar St. a sumptuous new venue that boasts a capacity of 600 with the seats in.

Although primarily a music venue. Vicar St is an excellent place to view stand-up comedy, its well-spaced tables and table service lending a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The festival kicked off on St Patrick's Night with Kevin

McAleer, one of Irish comedy's best loved comedic sons, who used the occasion to relaunch his stand-up career af-

never been higher.

band for playing so loudly that they have allegedly damaged his hearing. Peter Jeffrey is an expert in the somewhat more restrained musical ambience of Gregorian chant, and had never been to a rock concert before a fateful night two years ago when he stepped inside a Smashing Pumpkins gig in New Haven for just 20 minutes, ap-

parently to look for his son. Being on the Des O'Connor side of 40, he had even taken the precaution of inserting earplugs. Even so. he claims that the decibels being pumped out by the all-too-smash-ing Pumpkins caused hearing loss in his left ear, buzzing in both ears, and "sleep deprivation". He is now suing the group for exceeding a safe decibel level that they "knew or should have known" about 1 fear that he may have an inflated pointion of the scientific expertise to be expected from a rock band. But

since this is America, he is also su-ing the city of New Haven, the hall's owners, the band's record label (Virgin), the two supporting bands, and even the company that made the earplugs. The only sur-prise is that he isn't suing his son for not waiting in the car park.

Should he win, of course, the floodgates will open. If just 20 minutes of exposure to the pounding of a rock band in full pelt can wreak such havoc on a pair of plugged-up ears, what damage has been done to the naked lug oles of the millions who regularly attend rock venues? Will the music business soon have to follow the tobacco industry's reluctant example, and set aside billions of pounds to settle mass lawsuits from those who claim they "didn't know" how dangerous its pleasures were?

It's quite a thought, isn't it? So the next time you pop into the Brixton Academy for a spot of aggravated headbanging, do remember to take your lawyer and doctor along as well. All three of you might find the show unexpectedly rewarding.

Marsha mellow



Together again: Marsha Mason teams up in London with her ex-husband Neil Simon and co-star Richard Dreyfuss

ties Marsha Mason West End debut

wood name, garnering four Oscar nominations for best actress within eight years. But youth is what the Hollywood also marks a studios now want, and Meryl

from the mid-Seven-

was a major Holly-

Streep is virtually the only ac-

tress of Mason's generation

who regularly gets screen work.

reunion, says Matt Wolf

less and less each year." A

Like Streep, Mason began in the theatre: unlike Streep. from cancer three months earlier of his first wife, Joan. Mashe has chosen to return there, son's arrival in his life ultiregularly appearing off Broadmately fed Simon's popular way in recent years. And this (and semi-autobiographical) month she makes her London play Chapter Two, as well as its subsequent film version, stage debut in The Prisoner of Second Avenue, and the Amerwhich - no surprise - starred ican comedy marks a reunion

of sorts: her co-star is Richard Dreyfuss, Mason's Oscar-win-Mason. The couple were together for ning colleague from The Good-bye Girl 22 years ago, and the eight years, and Mason looks back on that period as "a two-1971 play was written by Ma-son's ex-husband, Neil Simon. edged sword, at least in terms of the world we were in. A lot of people thought of me only doing Neil's material, and con-We have always had a very strong professional relationsequently they didn't always consider me for certain things ship, so that part is really kind of nice," says Mason. "We both have a great deal of affec-I might have been right for. tion for one another."
Mason had already complet-And the commitment to the

marriage precluded me going away for long periods of time." ed her career-making film per-Nor was she prepared for her burgeoning fame. "I was basically very intimidated by what I had achieved. In retroformance, playing a hooker with an illegitimate son in Cin-derella Liberty, when she and Simon met during auditions for his 1973 Broadway play. The Good Doctor. "We started spect, it's one of my great re-grets that I didn't enjoy myself more. I was much, much more rehearsals October 3 and were. into struggle than I was into married on October 25," Masuccess." Once the relationson recalls of their swift courtship with Simon ended, jobs ship. "It all got crunched into a began to dry up. Says Mason: very intense period." Intensifying matters further "The 1980s were a very rough time: I did work, but I worked

was the fact that Simon was still coping with the death THEATRE: failed TV series, Sibs, created by James L. Brooks (As Good As It Gets), was followed by Marsha Mason's various forgettable films, and Mason became alarmed.
"I began to feel very scared

that I was out of tune, that maybe I didn't understand the milieu or the media: It was the first time that I began to doubt practically everything." What got the actress through it? Her move away from the ceaselessly competitive New York-LA axis to Abiquiu, New Mexico, where she grows medicinal herbs on a 250-acre farm and races a Mazda, having developed a passion for the latter from Paul Newman. ·

rofessionally, she has found a home of sorts in independent films, the occasional TV appearance, and the realisacon that the stage can provide ma-terial in a way that - once you reach a certain age .- TV and the cinema cannot.

"I can pretty much go any-

where to do what I want to do. At least the parts I can go for on stage are pretty exciting."
Whatever else happens, Mason will be able to say that she played London. You find yourself thinking, What if you only have a certain amount of time to be an actor? At least 1'll be able to sit in my rocking chair and share stories about when I played the West End. Every actor in the world

 The Prisoner of Second Avenue previews from next Tuesday and opens on March 30 at the Theatre Royal Haymarket (0771-930 8800)

would like to do that."

irish music & arts Mary Coughlan, Frances Black Maighread & Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill Seamus Heaney & Liam O'Flynn

Micheál O'Súilleabháin notuding Brian Kennedy and Máiread Ní Mhaonaigh

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Troubles to bear

COMEDY Kevin McAleer Dublin

ter a long spell in television studios. Most of the early part of the set consisted of new material that the Tyrone comedian is planning to take to this year's Edinburgh Festival. At his best, as with his routine on vegetarianism, McAleer seems like the best comedian in Ireland, his soft-spoken northern brogue masking a hard-hitting invective on socially sanctioned violence. His child-like delivery conceals subject-mat-

ter that is deadly serious. Where to place him? When he takes off on surreal flights of fancy, McAleer seems like the true heir to Flann O'Brien; when he indulges his passion for word-play and language manipulation, the spirit of

Joyce seems to hover over him. But things went awry when he misjudged a politically sensitive gag on the Troubles -- a subject McAleer had hitherto done well on.

Now on the back foot, McA-leer reverted to tried and tested material about his childhood in Tyrone, recounting the same madcap stories of rural psychedelia with which he made his name. All fine and dandy, but McAleer should be looking to sweep the ball forward, not pass it back to the

NICK KELLY

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ARTS

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OPERA

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

DAS LIED VON DER ERDE. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra resumes ribya Francamunic Charlesta Testinies fis series Mahler — The Speciacle. Gluseppe Sinopoli conducts Mahler's gmai "song symphony" pretaced by the Adagio from Symphony No 10. Albert Hell (0171-589 8212). Sunday, 7.30pm.

A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR: Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside porce. Jenny Sealey directs for Grasse Theatre.
Drill Half (0171-837 8270). Opens troucht 7. 30cm.

JERUSALEM QUARTET: Fast acquir ing an international reputation this young, prize-winning foursome visits the Wigmore with a programme of Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven ore Hall (0171-935 2141).

SNAKE: Interesting-aounding play by Rona Munro, snaking round the experiences of the people whose lives interconnect along the Finchley Road. Germma Bodhetz directs. Hampeted Theatre (pl 171-722 9301).
© Opens lonight, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

SIRMINGHAM: The 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World, Guang Yang, and the winner of the Nordic Solo Blennale in 1991, clarinettist Mertin Prost, join the Philharmonia Orchestr for a concert of classical showpiece



Sinopoli conducts Mahler at the Albert Hall

WATFORD: Husband, wife, son, and plano teacher interveeve in The Late Middle Classes, Simon Gray's new dark comedy. Harold Pinter directs Harriet Waller and Angela Pleasence Palece (01923 225671). (§) Previews from tonight, 8pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House full, returns only N Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

III THE COLLEEN BAWN: Dublin's Abbey Theatre brings Consil Morrison's production of a once tensous Dion Bouetcault play; love and intigge across the classes in 19th-century Ireland.

Lyttelton (0171-452 3000).

second try by New York's long-running intimate revue (showbiz jokes, mostly) to adapt for London audienoes. See review, right. Jermyn Street Theatre (0171-297

LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT: Set in a hubus transformed by the vast city of Heathrow four ordinary people by to cope. Dominic Hill directs new Jane Coles play. Orange Tree (0181-940 3833).

ANNMAL CRACKERS: Ben

movie. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyric (0171-494 5045).

☐ HAMILET: Rupert Wickham plays the hero in Christopher Geelan's production, opening this relaunched ore. convich (087,0-840 1111). 🔊

☐ TRUST: Pathock O'Kene plays a Beltast Mr Fixit whose aidlis diseatroutal his own larraly. Mick Gordon directs new Gary Micchell drama. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

S MACBETH: Future Sewell and Sally Denter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's ree-brustate production, Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041). SHOCKHEADED PETER: The

Barreti, who graduated from a caravan site to the Atlanta Olympics. Liam McGrath directs.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent parformance by Jeff Bridges as a parartoid professor who thinks his neighbour, Tirri Robbins, is heaching a terrorist conspiracy. Mark Petington filters

WAKING NED (PG): it's Lovery Gelore! for a small village in this sluthy hish table about a corpse in charge of a winning lottery ticket. With Ian Bannen and David Ketly. Kirk Jones directs

ALONE) (18): Brutal, stomach-chuming voyage through a French butcher's life. Philippe Nahon puts in a monumental performance in par Noe's ghastly, nilub

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15): Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan, ake the Butabi brothers, are routinely kneed in the groin by girls with big cleavages. Awful nightclub comedy SOUTHPAW (15): Gripping documentary about treand's first traveller boxing champ, Francis

CURRENT PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this abourd medical movio about a doctor who wants to cure the world with faughter. Director Torn Stradyac extracts an obscere amount

PLEASANTWILE (12): Ingenious spool of American lamily values, Two dysfunctional 1990s teenagers get sucked into a squeeky-clean 1950s . v scep. Great performances fro. Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Withersocom

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is powerful as a rungwey slave haunted by pottergelets, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jorethan Denme's overdong Bim fels, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Builet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who tall in love on the Internet. Written and directed

Call me Madam Saigon

drini's checkily critical show tried to woo London a few years ago and London paid little attention, probably because the chosen theatre was too big for its needling style, affectionately sharp, something like adoration by a thousand cuts. The current venue is only

five rows deep, making it altogether a better place to enjoy the parade of parodies, which is all the show is. Its targets are exclusively musicals, past,

CABARET Forbidden Broadway Jermyn Street

present and even future Mamma Mia! receives a sharp jab and has yet to begin its previews. So some familiarity with the world of musicals is a necessity. That said, few of us can escape knowing that, for instance, one of the characters in Beauty ond the Beast is a candlestick, or that the lyrics in a Sondheim musical are thorny with internal rhymes. Nonetheless, enjoyment is

obviously enhanced if one has actually sat and mourned the banality of the words in Miss Saigon, here exposed as the fatuous trivia they are.

Alessandrini's show, regu-

larly updated, has been running for 17 years, and his usual technique is to twiddle a lyric to make it comment upon a musical's faults, absurdity or characteristic style. Thus Sophie-Louise Dann dons a Ute Lemper blonde wig and, with



"Give them the old saucy-Fosse," burlesques the chore-ography of Chicago, hands pawing, bowler hat tipped over the brow, and verses that

point the mockery.

The stage is wide but shallow. Paul Knight sits at the piano to one side and all the entrances bar one are made from the other, the exception being the arrival of "Ethel Merman", pushing through the au-

dience and corncraking her exasperation at the frail voices of today. Christine Pedi, graduate of several Forbidden Broadway companies, does a full-spirited job with this sacred monster of the American stage, and the number she sings with Alistair Robins demonstrates another of Alessandrini's tricks. There is no logical reason why Robins, with a mike in his Phantom

wig and radio-controlled through his pants, should sing a song from Call Me Madam, but when he bleats "I keep singing, though my voice is air" against Pedi's roar of "We don't need amplifying!" a witty comment on theatrical decadence is being made.

The numbers vary in quality and relevance. Those featuring Carol Channing, Elaine Stritch and Julie Andrews re-

There is more than may

surfaced in the last London show but no matter: glum revolutionaries shuffling around on an imaginary revolve still look deliciously absurd, and all lovers of rhyme will relish the pairing of Les Misérables with Hedda Gabler.

The neatest number is the Sondheim parody Into The

More

Words - Pedi as Little Ref: veal amusing touches but Riding Hood, Mark O'Malley must have been around a long as Sweeney Todd - and the time. The Les Misérables jokes most ferocious is surely Pedis skewering of Liza Minnelli in full gabble. London audiences may not have New York's insa-tiable appetite for morsels of showbiz but there's enough on the menu here to make a tasty enough meal. JEREMY KINGSTON

with "Behold the monster

Polypheme", as what choms

wouldn't, and more or less

Animal magnetism

f one were looking for a single link in the chain joining Benjamin Britten and today's prodigy, Thomas Ades, it would have to be Oliver Knussen. The Aldeburgh connection apart, what these three composers have in common is technical virtuosity of the highest order and an immediacy of communication that springs from the brilliance of

their handling of materials. Knussen's double bill of one-act fantasy operas from the Eighties, Higglety Pigglety Pop! and Where the Wild Are (both based on books of Maurice Sendak). demonstrates that accomplishment and communicability at every turn: round every corner lurks a musical inspiration that brings a chuckle or perfectly captures the imaginative

world of the child. Allusions to Britten in these works (an opera within an opera in Higglety, the sea inter-ludes in Wild Things) are

Offver Knussen Queen Elizabeth Hall

CONCERTS

doubtless intentional, though Julian Anderson's probing notes for the concert performances at the QEH on Wednesday night under the composer's own baton traced their ancestry back through Janácek. Ravel and Stravinsky to Mussorgsky and Humperdinck.

Knussen's achievement, like that of the best of his exemplars, is to create a child's fantasy world with adult sophistication but without condescension. Thus the descent to the cellar where the Lion resides in Higglety elicits growling trombones, rolling timpani and agitated double basses. while the roaring Lion (Stephen Richardson) is at once fearsome and amusing.

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DOCTOR DOLITTLE

THE PRISONEL SECOND AVE

As the Sealyham Terrier, Jennie, at the centre of the story, Cynthia Buchan gained her Faustian experience en-

Cat-Milkman, with Rosemary The London Sinfonietta, as

BARRY

immediately meet the eye in Handel's "little opera": how could there not be when the libretto has imput from Alexander Pope, John Gay and John Hughes (for whose biography Dr Johnson coined the infamous phrase exotick and irrational entertainment') - not to mention Ovid?

Not that too much of this came across in Wednesday's slightly "churchy" perform-ance by the City of London Choir and the Hanover Band.

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ble string articulation, oboes quacking away like ducks on the wing (I mean that as a

ble ritenutos, fatal pauses between numbers that destroyed any sense of dramatic flow. and a certain "chug-along" approach; repeated notes in Handel need thinking about, and shaping, as indeed does every

coped with the conductor's breakneck speed for "Happy we" - does happiness really have to be so frenetic? Mark ... Wilde, in strong, firm voice, underplayed the droopiness of Acis and indeed sounded as if he really meant what he was singing would that he had hitten some other members of the cast. Jeni Bern's Galatea. sweet enough of tone, could make much more of the words, and Ivan Sharpe took Damon's role as killjoy rather too literally - there is more to him than that.

You need some divine conflation of Paul Robeson, Bryn Terrel and Hans Houer not to be upstaged by Polyphemus's. choral introduction, which Andrew Mayor has no pretensions to being, his baritone too light and polite for the monster's amorous outpourings. It is always good to hear this lovely piece, but a bit more of the raised cycbrow would be nice next time.

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dearingly, while Lisa Saffer took the stratospheric coloratura soprano roles (Baby, Potted Plant and Mother Goose) with dazzling facility.

David Wilson-Johnson was

a splendidly sleazy Pig-in-Sandwich-Boards, as well as the low voice of the Ash Tree. Completing a fine cast were Christopher Gillett as the high voice of the Ash Tree and the Hardy as the parlourmaid and Baby's Mother.

directed by Knussen, delivered the score with appropriate virtuosity: wheezy vacuum cleaner, animals' yawns, the whole magical fantasy world all conjured with wit, affection and imagination.

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Ass through to King Kong: there are some saucy images - and a few eyebrow-raising double entendres - in the text for this tale of the sea-nymbh whose grief at the murder of her droopy shepherd lover is somewhat perfunctory, whose transformation of himinto a disembodied stream forever roving through her plains is surely every liberated woman's dream. An innocent little pastoral Acis is not.

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compliment) and sweetly chirruping recorders. But the briskness of Hilary Davan Wetton's conducting was compromised by all-too-predictasingle phrase he wrote.

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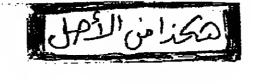
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MARCH 19 19

POP ALBUMS

Elton, Tim and Aida

ARTS

POP OPINION Heroin dopes

Sound and fury signify nothing

NEW POP ALBUMS: There must be bigger things that

anger Skunk Anansie than duff TV, says David Sinclair

SKUNK ANANSIE

Post Orgasmic Chili (Virgin CDV288I EI4.99) NOT a very inviting title, it must be said, combining the in-elegant ring of social-services jargon with a nagging sense of anticlimax. But then the euphonious use of language has never been high on the list of Skunk Anansie's priorities when forging their uncompromising amalgam of heavy met-al and black feminist rage.

I've been there and your frigid wit was far too greasy/ Ain't so slick and it ain't so damn profound," lead singer Skin croaks, just before the guitars go into Gatling gun mode for the shouty punk chorus of And This is Nothing that I Thought I Had.

To give them their due, it sounds as if the band have put considerable effort into their third album, and several numbers, including Tracy's Flaw and Lately, boast strong melodies and a more reflective tone. than much of their previous work. But no matter how thoughtfully they start off, songs such as Good Things Don't Always Come to You and Secretly sound unnecessarily shrill and bad-tempered by the end. And when Skin starts railing against the viewing options on her hotel television as if this were an issue of urgent popular concern, you get the impression of an artist who is suffering a creeping sense of detachment from any meaningful reality.

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A/aB

VARIOUS ARTISTS Tim Rice's Aida ----(Rocket/Mercury 524 651 £14.99) ELTON JOHN and Tim Rice approach the dauming pros-

pect of rewriting the story of Aida in a modern pop idiom with an air of merry presumption. John boasts about composing 21 songs for the score in 21 days, while Rice blithely remarks what "great fun" it was to have such a dramatic narrative at his disposal. The Disney Broadway musical based on their efforts is scheduled to open in spring 2000, after which opera lovers will find themselves having to explain to those outside their circle

that Verdi's Aida has nothing. to do with the John/Rice version, rather than vice versa. To complicate matters further, this album has little to do with the proposed musical, being instead a vehicle for various star turns including Sting. Tina Turner, the Spice Girls, Boyz II Men, James Taylor

and, oddly, Lenny Kravitz, to

tackle some of the songs des-

tined for the show in any way they feel inclined. The result is a collection of predictably humalong tunes, freighted with blustery cheruses and much ersatz emotion. with John hanging on to most of the best stuff for himself, including the recent hit, Written in the Stars (his duet with

LeAnn Rimes). During the suitably melodramatic death scene depicted in The Messenger he and Lulu

7.30pm Miles or Maybe: BSC2, Monday

UK Top 49: Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

prepare to meet their end with quivering harmonies and a sto-ical resolve: "Now the pain is over/Now we lie together/ .Gracefully at rest." Failure, one fears, is not an

BLACKSTREET Finally. (Interscope

INTD-90323 £14.99) APPARENTLY Blackstreet supremo Teddy Riley declined to work on a song with Whitney Houston because she asked him to do "something like No. Digging", the number which re-mains Blackstreet's biggest hit and a key factor in pushing sales of their 1996 album, Another Level, past the six mil-

But if the originator of swingbeat is so keen to avoid repeating past triumphs, it seems odd that Finally, Blackstreet's third album, should be bookended by songs based on samples of old Jackson Five hits; Can You Feel Me/It and Take Me There (built on the well-thumbed riff of I Want

You Back).
Elsewhere there are plenty of nicely crafted R&B ballads, such as In a Rush (featuring a harmonica cameo by Stevie Wonder), and slinky hip hop/ soul grooves including Girl-friend/Boyfriend (a mildly sen-suous duet between Riley and Janet Jackson). But there is little evidence of the innovation to which Riley says he aspires.

EVIE SANDS Women In Prison Distribution TW009 EI4.99) HER last album was the appropriately titled Suspended Animation, released in 1979. Now Evie Sands is back with



Requiem for heavyweights: Skunk Anansie's heavy metal thunder loses a great deal of its impact on Post Orgasmic Chill

an album discreetly guided by her mentor from the 1970s, the co-songwriter, co-producer, guitarist and backing singer Chip Taylor, but brimming with a wise and womanly passion that is hers alone.

pared in the sleeve notes to Dusty Springfield's Dusty in Memphis, the album is closer in spirit to the middle-aged blues of Bonnie Raitt or the

rootsy birdsong of Eva Cassidy. And, while the arrange-ments sound a bit middle-ofthe-road, every so often there is a flash of something stronger, as when she launches into the bitter tirade of I Hate You ashamed yearning of I Want Your Hands: "No. that ain't wrong/That's just a woman/ Singing a song/She ain't sup-posed to sing."

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Performance and Cocktalis	Stereophonics
2	(2)	Tafk on Corners	COTS (Atley
3	(+)	13	Blur (Fo
4	(4)	I've Been Expecting You	_Robbie Williams (Chrys
5	(3)	The Miseducation of	Lauryn Hill (Cohurn
6	(8)	My Love is Your Love	
7	(14)	Lades & Gentleggen - The Best of	George Michael (E
		Believe	
		Baby One More Time	
		Forgiven, Not Forgotten	

Copyright CIN • Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

Sowing seeds of Lebanon

RABIH ABOU-KHALIL

Enja ENJ-9360 2 THE Lebanese oud player Ra-

bih Abou-Khalil has lived in Munich since the late 1970s, and is now his label's top-selling artist. On this, his tenth al-bum — music for Yara, a film by Yilmaz Arslan - he is joined by two Frenchmen, violinist Dominique Pifarely and cellist Vincent Courtois, and Syrian frame drummer Nabil Khaiat, but fiercely resists the label "world music". Indeed, his work is genuinely unclassifiable, sui generis, primarily concerned with purely musical matters — the creation of mood, the blending of unusual instrumental sounds to create intriguing textures - rather than extra-musical ones such as selfconscious cross-cultural exchange. Thus majestic, sonorous themes give rise to grace-

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

ful violin and oud solos; dancing rhythms are propelled by skirling strings; melancholic airs slowly unfold from the gently communing interplay of violin and cello, or oud and frame drum, and the result is an album of startling originality and virtuosic elegance.

BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS A Part. and Yet Apart Discipline Global Mobile DGM 9905

THE sixth album from ex-Yes drummer Bill Bruford's Earthworks features an entirely new personnel and a slight change in musical emphasis. Bruford has always had a keen jazz ear, and Earthworks' previous incarnation showcased the upcoming talents of the 1980s UK scene; this band does the same for those of the late 1990s: gutsy saxophonist Patrick Clahar, sparkling pianist Steve Hamilton, eloquent bassist Mark Hodgson. Bruford still has a penchant for airy yet punchy themes that lend themselves well to his brisk but supple drumming style, but the of previous albums has been replaced by a more straightforward approach.

CHRIS PARKER

They shoot horse, don't they

here's no surprise in Brett Anderson from Suede's revelation that he's had problems with heroin; nor Damon Albarn from Blur's confession that the No 1 single Beetlehum was about his former girlfriend. Justine Frischmann from Elastica, and the same yucky brown stuff. Anyone who has an opinion about the nature of coolness — and further surmises that it consists of leather jacklets, androgynous hair, having a bottom smaller than their lapels and being fabulously cynical about a world that's actually rather lovely — is bound to run into trouble, because they are trying to impress dead peo-ple (Jim Morrison, Janis Jop-lin, Keith Moon), and the dead are famously impassive.

It's beyond predictable that

heroin has made inroads into the Britpop gonks - it's part of a tedious, much-trodden cycle that starts with a brilliant pop-py album, cocaine, euphoria and success; modulates through difficulties adjusting to fame and exhaustion; and ends with a sprawling doublealbum, depression and heroin. Pop stars take heroin for all Heroin's a mug's game. So why, Caitlin Moran wonders, do so many pop stars still play it?



Damon Albam has been an observer of the damage heroin causes, Marti Pellow has more first-hand experience

ing Countryfile, is proof of the brain-munching qualities of cocaine.

CHUM PHEATRE

sorts of reasons: it's usually triggered by taking too much cocaine, and wanting to slow down a bit. The fact that some pop stars turn to heroin to achieve this, rather than hav-ing a nice hot bath and watch-

Heroin's great evil is that its trouble is a long time coming. Unlike cocaine, it doesn't erode the ears: artists have lit-tle difficulty fitting smack into their art, save for the problem of repeatedly working the word "veins" into the lyrics without arousing suspicion. The list of good heroin albums is as long as, and pretty much consists of, the list of the greatest albums of all time. The list of good cocaine albums, on the TERESONAL other hand, is as long as a midget's widget. Given this,

> Management are also pretty sanguine about a nascent habit. Look it from their point of view: the artist is now quiet and malleable. He can be coerced into doing things he would previously consider beneath his dignity. He's stopped whining about want-ing a holiday. He's not putting on weight and his spots have cleared up. He's writing an alburn that appears "deep" and "meaningful", so hey, there might even be a crossover thing in prospect.

smack isn't really a problem, as far as A&R men are con-

cerned.

In fact, from an industry point of view, here are some of the things a pop star could do that would be worse than taking heroin: 1) Fiddle with kids; 2) Get fat; 3) Go mad; 4) Become a Quaker, 5) Start going out with someone very, very ugly; 6) Get head stuck be-

tween railings during photo-shoot; 7) Break zip on favourite jacket day before world tour starts; 8) Record album about economics: 9) Die.

And, as far as the general public is concerned, junkie pop stars are one of life's small bonuses. Not only can we thrill to the Schadenfreude, but we can also haul out the drug thesauruses and spend an enjoyable hour saying "He's smacking horse up" and Brett Anderson's been slamdancing with Mr Brownstone" in a faintly hysterical way. No - and this is a fairly ob-

vious point - the only person to suffer adversely when a pop star starts taking heroin is the pop star himself. It's his life that hangs in suspended ani-mation while he drains his bank account: it's his emotions that become immune to anything not chemical; it's his friends and family that recede into the background, to be re-placed by fellow ghosts who fear the sun. Given that we all know this, the question re-mains: why would any pop star take heroin?

I hat you have to re-member is that it's not heroin per se that makes people junkies. It's the holes in people's lives that make them junkies. Once you become famous, you become hermetically sealed from any kind of tribulation and woe: yet, unless one is Buddhawhumpingly enlightened, hu-man beings always unconsciously seek out grief in order to learn from it, and evolve. Also, as a songwriter, it's your job to articulate pain and joy and normal life, yet you've been carefully removed from your source. Heroin gives you almost instant trouble, and the kind of faux gravitas the insecure nouveau famous crave.

Given this psychological pro-file, it was almost inevitable that Marti Pellow from Wet Wet Wet was admitted to hospital after overdosing last week. He's always been desperate to be admired by the cool bands, yet was always dismissed as an MOR chipmunk with too much time and hairgel on his hands. Still, I have to confess, I didn't see that one

Lisa Verrico enters the hectic life of Craig Armstrong, composer to the stars

raig Armstrong must be Britain's busiest musician. Since winning Bafta and Ivor Novello awards last year for his soundtrack to Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet, the Glaswegian composer has been inundated with work. Right now, he is halfway through scoring director Michael Mann's latersatz period tunes, Armstrong chose throbbing techno est big-budget movie, is com-pleting a classical piece for Clio Gould, leader of the Lonand trip hop to score scenes such as a ball. "It is a bizarre mix," Armstrong admits. "It's don Sinfonietta, and writing a trick I've been using for songs for his second pop alyears though. If actors are in burn for Melankolic, Massive period costume, contemporary Attack's label. In addition, music sounds striking."

Despite graduating from the Royal Academy of Music Armstrong was recently in Dublin to produce U2's forthcoming single collaboration with Salman Rushdie and has

man's label to release his own classical albums. "But I'm very choosy about the jobs I take on," insists the affable 39-year-old. "I used to accept every offer. Now. no matter how famous a director

signed a deal with Michael Ny-



takes a break from working is. if I don't like a film, I turn

down the work." Media-shy and seemingly ego-free, Armstrong is unlike-

ly to become a household name. Nevertheless, his music is already familiar to millions through his work on Goldeneye, Batman Forever and Mission Impossible.

At the end of this month, Armstrong is back in British cinemas, courtesy of Ridley Scott's director son, Jake, Having fallen for the composer's debut solo album, The Space Between Us, young Scott asked Armstrong to write the score for Plunkett & Macleane, which stars Robert Carlyle. Set in the late 18th century, Plunkett & Macleane is a humorous highwayman costume caper. But, rather than writing

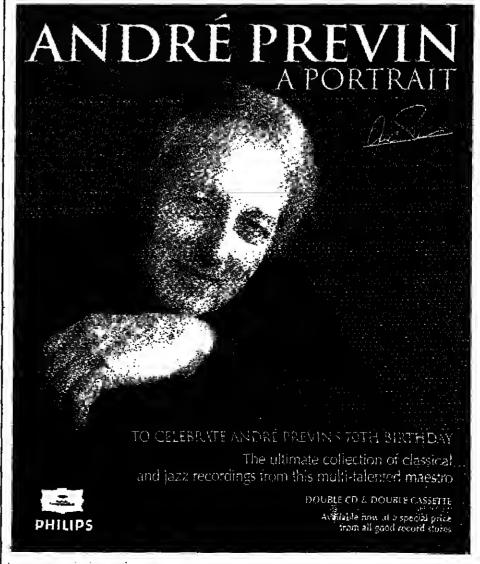
Low-key and ubiquitous

with a clutch of awards, including Young Jazz Musician of the Year, it was years before Armstrong found work in his favoured field. "I thought I would walk out of the Royal Academy and become a composer, but nobody took me seriously," he says. "I would go into the jazz clubs and say I was the Young Jazz Musician of the Year and they'd say: 'So what? We've got Stan Getz on this evening'."

In time, he returned to Glas-

as a pop star. He was a found-er member of Texas and cowrote the group's first big hit, I Don't Want a Lover. "But I was too romantic to be in a band," he says. "After Texas, I left pop. I was 27 and I feh too old. I wanted to act like an adult. I wanted to work with dance companies."

His big break came through meeting producer Nellee Honper, who introduced Armstrong to both Massive Attack and Madonna, and would later collaborate with him on Goldeneye and Romeo + Juli-et. And the rest is pop history. • The Plunkett & Macleane soundtrack is released on March 29 by Virgin



Hip hoaxers from the beat generation

Duping of the media is not new. Forty years on,

Mike Mosson relates how he fooled The Guardian

o the BBC and Channel 4 have been exposed presenting actors and hoaxers on talk shows and documentaries. What's new? Forty years ago I was a chemistry student in Manchester. Maurice Hat-

istry student in Manchester. Mattrice Platton, a photography student, and I edited the college's formightly magazine — jazz, poetry readings, hints of drugs and sexual freedom. In a fill-in piece on beamiks we let our imaginations run loose — with our only knowledge coming from reading about the Beat Generation in California. We thought little more about it being rightly proud of the tle more about it, being rightly proud of the cover photograph of Lowry at work in his studio and our interview with him. Within days The (Manchester) Guardian

was on the phone. Beatniks in Manchester! Could we take a feature writer and a photog-

rapher to a beatnik party? Maurice and I had just finished our finals. We had nothing else to do and the opportunity was too good to miss. If The Guardian wanted to visit a beatnik party it should surely be

able to do so. Maurice had a friend with a photographic studio on Manchester's Oxford Street. Its attic would make an appropriate venue.

The next two days were spent recruiting and briefing fellow students — men with beards (then uncommon), girls with long hair, musicians, and others who would behave strangely. We arranged to meet *The Guardian* duo

— Michael Frayn, then a feature writer, and
a staff photographer — near to the site of

"The Beatnik Party".

When we arrived the party was in full

swing and the representatives of the press duly mingled, talking to and photographing participants, who played their parts to the full — expressing radical philosophies of life and overt sexual attentions, regardless of gender. There was home-played modern jazz, some dubious smoke, and I read Allen Ginsberg's Howl to a guitar accompaniment.

The following week The Guardian published a description of Frayn's encounter with Manchester's beatniks. Mission accomplished! That autumn, when the academic year had resumed, one of the long-haired girls who had played her part for *The Guard*-

ian, was in a coffee bar. An older women took the next seat and said: "I work for the BBC. Do you know any beatniks?" My collaborator replied that she had been at the party written up in The Guardian. The researcher's excitement was unrestrained as she wanted to know how to contact the organisers.

Once again the temptation was too great to resist. We met the researcher and the BBC producer in the grottiest pub we knew. They worked for a TV book review programme pre-sented by Brian Redhead, then features editor of *The Guardian* and later anchor of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. Nancy Spain, a tabloid columnist, was to review Jack Ker-ouse's second book. His best seller, On the Road, had been the first popular novel of the Beat Generation. The BBC wanted to incorpo-

interviews with beatniks into Nancy's review of

So the following Sunday we found ourselves in BBC TV's Manchester more than eight hours to produce a half-hour pro-gramme. Presenter, reviewer and production staff dashed off to the local between takes

to steady their

Maurice

Scoop: The Guardian of June 16, 1959

BEATNIKS JUST DOING

THEIR BEST

Ginsberg's candle-lit apostles

became more and more extreme in our proclaimed philosophies as we were repeatedly introduced to the camera. We went on and on, set-ting out to upset a middle-class audience.

Our rewards? An hour in the hospitality room with unlimited whisky and sandwiches and, three months later, a cheque for £12; and some understanding of the fear of audience indifference that can drive the professional TV performer to drink, deception and self-destruction. We also acquired a profound scepticism about anything presented

by the media as reality.

There were two family reactions to my TV performance. From my mother a telegram: "You are desperately ill. Come home at once." From my then future mother-in-law: "You can't marry him?"

 Mike Mosson retired in 1997 as director of human resources for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Maurice Hatton, who died last year, was a photographer and film-maker.

NEXT MONDAY,

DISCOVER THAT



Phil Redmond tells Carol Midgley: "We are not stopping the sex and sensationalism storylines but we need to involve characters the audience can relate a

Creator meets fanatic

hese have been test-ing times for the true Brookside fanatic. Those of us who fell head over heels for Bobby and Sheila Grant and George and Marie Jackson in the Eighties and have built our week around Channel 4's three halfhourly episodes ever since, have found recent events little short of traumatic.

Storylines in the Liverpool soap opera, which once put bodies under patios and Roman Catholic priests in bed with young women, had started to meander and become, well, boring. Characters whom you thought you had known for years suddenly appeared to change personality overnight. Worse, government

THE TIMES

The faltering Liverpool soap *Brookside* is going back to basics. Phil Redmond tells Carol Midgley why

propaganda started seeping into the dialogue more obviously: Brookside junkies tuning in for a fix of sensationalism began to hear dialogue about the Ofsted report and adult literacy courses.

Last year, as ratings started to slide, came the alarming rumours that Channel 4 was about to axe Brookside, its flag-ship programme. The crisis reached its pinnacle last week-end when it was reported that Phil Redmond, the soap's creator and head of Mersey Television, was bowing out as pro-ducer declaring himself, at 49, 'too old" for the job.

So it is a slightly worldweary Redmond who turns up at the Langham Hilton hotel in London to explain what is going on. Is he really abandontured since birth 17 years ago? "It is rubbish, complete rub-bish," he says. "I have never been the series producer. I just get involved with the scripts

when there is something big going on like the body under the patio story. "I have brought two new families into the Close, so I have been more involved than usual but now they are established 1 am stepping back

again. That's all." Redmond hopes the arrival of the Musgroves and the . Shadwicks, both classic working-class families with a tendency to shout at each other, will help to restore Brookside's traditional values. Rather

mieres such as Goldeneye and The Spe-

audience share by one percentage point this year to 39 per cent.

Reversing the downward trend

from 44.3 per cent in 1994 as more

and more channels have come on stream will be a big achievement.
It will be even more demanding to

repeat the trick in 2000 and take

the share up to the self-imposed

target of 40 per cent. The signs

lection of popular domestic drama rang-

ing from Trevor Eve in Andrea Newman's new psychological thriller, Evil Streak, to Rhinoceros, a romantic comedy

starring Robson Green - do not appear good for the BBC. On the real-life side

Birth Race 2000 - providing a little help

for couples who want to give birth to a

The overall impression created is that

the BBC could be on the back foot for some

time and will have plenty of opportunities

to polish its traditional fall-back argument

that it is not in the business of chasing rat-

centuries of Christianity.

or mystery viruses to pull in are not stopping the sex and viewers, the drama will come from the characters, which, Brookside fans hope, will take it back to the glory days when Billy and Doreen would regu-

larly scream the house down. Redmond says he realised the show needed resuscitating at the end of 1997 when he saw spectacularly dull scene. 'Ron Dixon and (David) Bing

Crosby were arguing about Ron putting some pet-rol in his car, which went on for about seven to it as the time we lost the plot. I decided " there was going to be an instant we could start again. We had sion and that's how the Shad-

wicks came in."

The Shadwicks vocal

Redmond has also been quoted as saying that there were too many middle-class families in Brookside and that working-class drama was more interesting than middle-class drama which could not "hold a large audience".

"I never said that the middle classes were boring. I said that a successful series has to have the same range of demographics as the audience and the middle class only make up 30 per cent of the population. We

sensationalism storylines but we need to involve characters the audience can relate to families that worry about how to pay the mortgage."

At an average audience of 3.3 million, Brookside's ratings are below par. But they are not, insists Redmond, as bad as has been claimed. Dur-ing the trial of Mandy and

Beth Jordache, which was the show's peak, the Redmond believes that the ratings problem

is less to do with more to do with channels being particularly strong. He also says Channel 4 has failed to promote the show

properly. "There has been virtually no promotional publicity for Brookside, it's all been about Sex and the City and American imports. Our big impact was supposed to be last

November with the arrival of the Musgroves but the marketing got screwed up. Channel 4 promoted Lindsay's wedding to Peter instead, but Peter's character was leaving. So we

didn't get the impact."

Does Channel 4's chief exec-

how Redmond feels? "Let's just say he's aware of the situa-tion. But there is always a year of uncertainty when a new

chief executive comes in."

The fact that *Brookside* has a tiny budget and far fewer scriptwriters than EastEnders or Coronation Street is legendary. Extras rarely have a speaking part and you will never hear copyrighted pop music in any Brookside bars or houses because Mersey cannot afford the lees.

But lack of money cannot account for storylines that have driven fans to distraction. For example, to write out Max Farnham, the scriptwriters suddenly decided that he had been having an affair for 20 years - something that had never been mentioned before.

"Sometimes we get it wrong and Max was one thing I will put my hand up to. We had to come up with something of (his wife) would not contem-

plate having him back." Redmond is adamant that contemporary issues do have a place. These are things that af-fect people's lives. We are going to have Margi Shadwick being asked to join a European task force."

Redmond is also introducing "flexecutives". "Flexis are what we would have called yuppies in the Eighties but they are scruffier, and whereas yuppies would have been . lawyers and accountants, flexis have jobs in the media.

"By the end of 1997 we didn't have one traditionally function tional family, but now I think

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- N. C. Collect

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£1.

A FREE HOUSE IS NOT than relying on gas explosions are going back to basics. We utive, Michael Jackson, know JUST A KIND OF PUB. ITV plays a blinder



Fantastic Win A House competition with Virgin One. Starting in The Times, next Monday. Plus a free 24-page glossy Interiors magazine to keep.



CHANGING TIMES

ings. And ITV saves its best programmes egy, but ITV is cock-a-hoop over the performance of its new schefor the autumn, the peak advertising season. In the past there have been cycles of dule uninterrupted by the bongs of News programming success, times when the BBC has been firing on all cylinders. Deat Ten. It is now clear why ITV put so much effort into persuading the Independ-ent Television Commission to permit the change. Helped by stockpiled movie prespite the ever-increasing competition, BBC l increased its audience share in 1995 and 1996. But since then ITV has fought back. We are now seeing the effects of a resur-gent ITV combining with the newly liberatcialist, ITV raced to a 47.2 per cent share of peak-time viewing, leaving BBC I trailing with 37.3 per cent. It is the best ITV performance for four years and will give Richard Eyre, ITV's chief executive, a ed schedule. It could be a long time before the BBC is a serious contender - its spring and summer schedules to be revealed on Monday had better be good. The ratings pressure could not come at

good chance of achieving the near impossi-ble — increasing ITV's peak-time a worse time for the BBC. The Davies from Wednesday's launch of its spring and summer schedule - with a strong se-

Committee is looking into ways of increasing its income and at what opportunities there are for greater savings from the reve-nues in has got. Financial pressure will in-crease as the licence fee rises by less than the cost of inflation. Inevitably there will also be a period of instability as all the top BBC management start answering the advertisements that appeared this week for millennium haby — contrasts with a 20-part series from Melvyn Bragg on 20 a new director-general.

The improvement in the fortunes of fTV could not be coming at a better time for Richard Eyre, who very much wants to be the next director-general of the BBC. Poaching him might be a neat way of at least causing TIV to falter in its tracks. It is inconceivable that Eyre will not be on

the shortlist for the job that many broad-casters find endlessly desirable — despite all the drawbacks.

THE rationale behind Lord Rothermere's decision to launch the Metro free newspaper on the London Underground this week is clear. In part it is an opportunity to develop a new business, but it also looks like a measure to stop any other paper from attacking the soft underbelly of the Evening Standard by launching a free newspaper of its own.

News International, the owner of The

Times, has been looking at just such a free paper to try to win some of the Standard's classified advertising market. The project has, in effect. been put on hold to see how Metro pans out. It is still a coura-geous plan to hand out a respectable, if basic, free newspaper at every Tube station when you are

in the business of selling the Dally Mail and Evening Standard to the same people.

There is the anecdotal evidence of the overenthusiastic Metro distributor who

got too close to a newsagent and cut sales of the Mail by 20 per cent. It will be a very skilful highwire act indeed if Associated can produce a free newspaper that is good enough to be a success without cannibalising the readership of its main titles. Tuesday's issue, for example, had a full report of the Spurs versus Barnsley FA Cup game and carried an advertisement for the Evening Standard promising a full report of the match.

But full marks to the young Lord Rothermere for having the courage to test an interesting theory — that in a clogged London, the way to reach new readers is to use the public transport system.



over

credits

row over the credits, bordering on atleged "copyright theft" by Survival Anglia, the wildlife

programming arm of United News and Media, is becoming

a cause célébre on behalf of independent producers. Survi-

val Anglia, a sister company of Anglia Television, on Wednes-day said it would contest a writ

from Australia's Prospero Productions, claiming copyright

theft and seeking damages of

The row concerns a six-part

series made by Prospero, Hu-ian, Wildlife of the Malaysian

Rainforest. The names of Pros-

pero and its directors were re-

moved from the credits when

the series was reotled Malay-sian Jungle and aired by Chan-

nel 5 last month. The series

was billed as a "Catspaw pres-

entation for Channel 5" and

the names of Catspaw's pro-

duction team were given as Si-

mon Ellis, Roy Hunt, Joanna

Mintly, Andrea Olsen, Petra

Prospero says Catspaw had

nothing to do with the making of the Malaysian series.

though it is involved in packa-

ging programmes for Channel 5 swildlife strand. Apart from

the producers and cine-

matographers, no other mem-

bers of the Prospero produc-

Ed Punchard, a director of

Prospero and a producer on

the Malaysian series who was

credited on screen, says he had

to make a stand because the

company's lifeblood was its in-

tellectual property: "By seek-ing to take credit for our work.

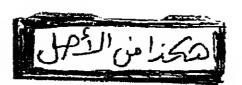
Survival Anglia is damaging

our reputation and depriving

tion team were mentioned.

Regent and Peter Scholfield.

at least £500,000.



The party's not yet over for Noel

Noel Edmonds is relieved that the House Party has been axed. He is now planning bigger things for Saturday night TV, says Meg Carter

omorrow night will be a mixed blessing for Noel Edmonds. It marks the end of an era with the last edition of Noel's House Party on BBC1. And a beginning, too, as Edmonds pursues a range of other ideas under Magic, a new strategic alliance with the former BBC head of light entertainment, Michael Leggo, and Michael Huril, the executive producer of Blind Date.

Noel's House Party was once described by the former BBCl Controller Alan Yentob as "the most important show on the BBC". Since then its rat-ings have slumped from 15 mil-lion to six million. Responding to the announcement that the show must end, Edmonds in-sisted that the decision was "munual", adding: "I feel as though a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders." He identifies parallels between the fluctuating for-

times of House Party and the BBC throughout the eightyear run.

"House Party is one of the most accurate mirrors for what's been happening at the BBC in recent years," he says. The programme changed a lot as did the BBC. Both suffered from enormous cost-cutting, which brought into focus weaknesses on the production side. A lot of talent left to launch their own companies and, after the fifth year, the cuts really began to hurt."

Contrary to popular opinion, while Edmonds owns the House Party format - including the Crinkley Bottom name and features such as the Gunge Tank and Grab A Grand — the show has always been made by the BBC inhouse. In a well-documented spat during the last series, one show was cancelled after Edmonds walked out in protest at production standards.

Max.

Edmonds sees other parallels between the demise of his show and the state of the BBC.

WHILE BSkyB's proposed

takeover of Manchester Unit-

ed, and the Premier League's

turmoil grab headlines, be-

want the multimillion-pound

Both have been affected by changes in society and a shift in attitudes to - and within television. "Take the explosion of the leisure industry." he says. "Leisure has become a major consideration in terms

of time and money. Television has become merely a part of this. It isn't special any more." At the same time broadcast. ers have found themselves losing control. They may want to perpetuate the myth that they are the power base but they are not. Bill Gates could probably buy Rupert Murdoch with the change in his back pocket. We will soon see a massive



shift in power. Already the conventional view of television is flying out of the window." Edmonds enjoys an in-

formed perspective on British television: he has spent more than two decades as the face of Saturday television on BBC1. But his television prankster persona belies his off-air role as businessman and millionaire. Unique Group, which Edmonds owns outright, makes programmes for commercial and non-commercial television and radio stations, and last year turned over £15 miltion, a figure projected to rise to £20 million in 1999.

Its activities span television production, talent management, live events - Unique recently renewed its contract to produce Proms in the Park for BBC television - video conferencing and a division developing "new applications for proven broadcast technology".

We want to cater for the broadcast industry's changing demands and needs," he says. "Once, the only thing anyone was interested in was who was going to host a new television show. Then it was all about formats. Now it's who's going to produce it. With budgets down, the true skill lies in resource management."

Magic, the alliance between Edmonds, Leggo and Hurll, is intended to take each into new production genres. Edmonds talks enthusiastically about corporate television networks and the Internet. A recently launched - operation installs video-meetings networks, technology that can be adapted for broadcast use, or for original material accessible via the Net. Given Edmonds's track record, it is likely to be a shrewd investment.

He is not, however, planning to turn his back on broadcast television. He has recently completed The World of the Secret Camera for BBCL Meanwhile, Unique is working on four pilots for the BBC and developing three television event show formats for ITV. Then there is Magic's involvement in at least four new series and the brief to come up with a new Sanurday-night entertainment format for BBCl. "A massive challenge," he admits.

Edmonds's style of light entertainment is tried and tested and, given the right format, broadcasters seem confident that it can still generate rat-ings. Weary of the fad for "doc-usoaps". Edmonds predicts a viewing backlash as audiences clamour for popular entertainment. "One of the most important roles today is creating TV events," he says. "There has been a decline in programmes that are exciting and involv-ing." Who Wants to be a Millionaire? is an exception. "It works the way House Party used to - live, with viewer in-

teraction and fresh ideas." The challenge is to make programmes that people feel they must watch. Success can come only from building brands —



"People are weary of docusoaps," Noel Edmonds says. He predicts a backlash as viewers clamour for popular entertainment

it's all fireworks now. Too much quick burn," he says. And deregulation of radio has been a factor. "Once radio was traditional breeding ground for new talent. Now we have an industry unwilling

programmes and "stars". "But to take risks. Where would Kenny Everett start out today

Few traditional television companies, including the BBC, are willing to nurture new talent or to build loyalty. He points to Carol Vorder-

man, currently fronting three shows on three different channels — hardly a recipe for de-veloping a broadcaster's televi-

sion brand, he observes. Point taken. Until. that is, he lets slip that he has yet to decide whether he'd have 'more

And learn."

fun" working with "other peo-ple" when his BBC contract

successful radio station be-

cause of its talent line-up," he

adds. "BBC TV should listen.

Radio 2 is the UK's most

runs out in March 2000.

lard four years ago which has so rocketed in influence that male editors regularly beg to attend its parties.

■ IF YOU treasure a pet-free existence, here's a op: don't switch on ITV over the May Bank Holiday (May 1 to 3) That's when the network devotes three days to Pets in Need, a live telethon, to find homes for Britain's 20,000 stray dogs and cats. Who thought up this fluffy ruse? Why Pearson Television... headed by Greg Dyke, tipped by some to become the next BBC Director-General.

us of future commissions." Peter du Cane, the supervising director for the series and director of the first two pro-

grammes, is even more upset. Copies of the credits show that he was not mentioned when the first four programmes were aired. When the problem was pointed out to Channel 5 fifth was withdrawn an the credits corrected for the finai one. Prospero has no complaint with Channel 5. In a letter to Survival Anglia, du Cane described making the series, shot in the rainforest. "It was hot and humid, there were mosquitoes and leeches. Now I discover that the series has been broadcast ... without any credit for myself."

Survival Anglia's lawyers say the "series production team" credit is standard in Britain and referred to the entire Channel 5 wildlife series; it never meant to suggest that those credited produced the work. Survival adds that it had the right to make changes under the contract - drawn up with Primetime, the programming distributors - which says changes or deletions can be made to credits to conform to Channel 5's policy "providing producer and director credits remain".

United News and Media yesterday said it had received no formal statement of claim from Prospero and that Prime-

ome had cleared the credits. RAYMOND SNODDY

A share in sport's TV millions

hind the scenes the Government is determined to force through a fairer system to recycle the huge sums raised by the sale of rights to TV. Let's face it, sport is just a sub-division of TV these days.") says a key adviser. Ministers ing on a strategic plan.

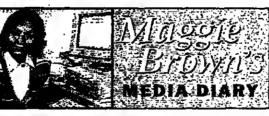
bonanza distributed throughout football, cricket, rugby, and tennis instead of bolstering ahandful of clubs and the lifestyles of overpaid stars. Chris Smith's Department of Culture, Media and Sports is uncomfortable at watching freemarket forces wreak damage on an American scale. It wants to link "delisted" sports

events (ie, those that can be he is in charge of auctioned off for subscription or even a pay-per-view) with a cast-iron method of cash redistribution. Advisers are work-

A NEW Editor for the Financial Times? That's the chatter at the paper where the in-cumbent Richard Lambert is close to clocking up ten years, traditionally regarded as the correct length of tenure at the pink helm. The successor? Australian-born Robert Thompson is in the frame. Currently editing the American edition.

the big push to hit 100,000 sales by the end of the year, ordained by (owner) Pearson's Marjorie Scardino. Andrew Gowers.

who deputised for Lambert, is in Germany, preparing the new German-language Deutsche FT with partners Bertelsmann for launch this autumn. So determinedly international is the FT's stance — foreign sales outstripped UK ones last August



- that the Budget, for the first time, didn't make the front pages of the internacional editions last week.

THERE has been a battle behind the scenes over the title Jailbirds. The BBC got there

with Chris Terrill's docusoap about life in a new Yorkshire women's prison Brian Park. the former Coronation Street

producer, making a drama series by that name for ITV starting on May 17...except that it is being renamed Bad Girls (Muffs in Cuffs was rejected).

FIVE new media stalwarts. two men, three women, are be-

sion. They are: Donald Trel-ford, former Editor of The Observer: Charles Wilson, former Editor of The Times and Mirror Group director: Joyce Hopkirk, former magazine editor; Linda Christmas, former Guardian woman's editor and journalism lecturer: and Eve Pollard, former Sunday Express Editor.

lies and Mergers Commis-

The interesting thing is that the key body sounded out for the recommendations was Women in Journalism, the networking group founded by Pol-

THE TIMES & DILLONS FORUM in association with The Word

Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novelists, on Sunday, March 28,

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

THETIMES•DILLONS•FORUM

MATE	ONALSA	LES - F	EBRUAR	1999	
		DAILY TITLE		ر فراد د د محسد مشاهد	
	Average	Compared to Jan '99	Compared to Feb '98	%+/-	Market
TABLOID	3.698,805	-23,611	-18.094	-0.49	27.27
The Sun	2,301,499	12.128	-23.864	-1.03	16.97
Daily Mirror	1,091,790	-12,023	-103,976	-8.70	8.05
Daily Express Daily Mail	2,346,502	3,808	48,090	2.09	17.30
Daily Star	534,704	-5,287	-50,738	-8.67	3.94
ily Star (Irish)	90,910	837	3,373	3.85	0.67
Delly Record	700,497	20,191	16,173	2.36	5.16
ESTORA TOTAL	10,764,707	3.959	129,036	1 18	79.38
BROADSHEET	Tobio. M.	C. S. C. C. C.	عمد مر. :		
The Times	755,359	9,042	-55,883	-6.89	5.57
D Telegraph	1.043,653	3,513	27,042	-2.53	7.69
Charges D (energy)	400,600	1,448	-4,151	-1.03	2.95
Independent	220,203	654	3,715	1.72	. 1.62
	380.581	-4,098	27,033	7.65	2.81
Fix Times	2,800,396	10.559	-56.328	1.97	20,64
HEET TOTAL					-
RAND TOTAL	13,585,103	6,600	185.354	51	100
		SUNDAY TIT	LES		
TABLOID		-17,698	-246,803	5.43	29.94
NoW	4,296.654	-72.514	-68,879	-3.98	11.58
The People	1,662.080	-63, 82 7	144,197	-6.77	13.83
wedry Mirror	1,985,075	-03,021 439	100.174	-9.02	7.04
odży Express	1,010,122	34.948	94,908	4.25	16.21
ail on Sunday	2,326,195			4.20	80.12
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			4.045	0.31	9.60
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Secret of sales success

s they scanned sales records for the first two months of 1999, only six of the 19 editors of nacional newspapers could celebrate increases over February 1998, although several, including The Times, recorded sales increases in the past two months. .

Seeking reasons for success they may have been tempted to follow the example of Tony Blair and utter mantras: investment, investment, investment. News, news, news. Value for money, value for money, value for money. The papers that are succeeding are

getting or offering all three. The most notable examples are the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday under the direction of Editor-in-Chief Paul Dacre, the first Editor-in-Chief in my recollection who really is a hands-on Editor-in-Chief, especially now his former deputy Peter Wright edits the Sunday paper.

Their success is not surprising. Both have millions to spend on editorial. Neither willingly accepts failure. Each demands 12 to 14-hour working days from their staff. Their marketing departments spend millions advertising the titles consecutive months. Investon television - almost £19 million last year.

That willingness to invest has been shown over the past two weeks in a revamp of The Mail on Sunday. It now hits the doorstep with five chunky sections and increasingly apes The Sunday Times agenda, especially with a new Review secoon which is heavy on text and big oo star names. Sales have

sections, is also telling at The Independent, where Simon Kelner became Editor-in-Chief, with Kim Fletcher as Editor of the Sunday otle, last May. Sales of both papers are now up year-on-year for the first time in three years.

Year-on-year sales of the three red-top Sundays are

TOP SELLING UK REGIONAL PAID WEEKLES	now risen year-on-year for 22 door	vn by nearly 50	0,000. Ar
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West Briton 50,603 0.4 Essex Chronicle 49,683 0.2 Surrey Advertiser 45,492 0.2 Kent Messenger 45,383 5.3 Chester Chronicle 44,322 1.0 TOP SELLING UK REGIONAL MORNINGS	TOP SELLING UK REGIONAL	PAID WÉDILIES	12-74-
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Belfast Telegraph 124,530 -3.6	Belfast Telegraph		

they offering value for money ment, whether in hiring more is the question some of their editors ask themselves. On my count The Mail on Sunday journalists or launching new had 364 pages last week, against 394 for The Sunday Times (also up year-on-year).

It is regional newspapers that have the biggest success story to tell. Sales for the last half of 1998 show that 70 per cent of the weeklies, half the morning papers and 35 per cent of the evenings recorded year-on-year sales increases.

One of those mornings is the Western Daily Press, edited by fan Beales and selling 60,000 a day. Adding value has been the Bristol philosophy: it has introduced a 48-page Saturday colour magazine, a 20-page Monday sports section and daily supplements. Saturday sales are up by 8 per cent.

Local news, high story counts, editionising made easier by new technology, home delivery - 40 per cent of Northcliffe's newspapers are delivered direct - are some reasons for the renaissance in the regions. Yet again, investment, news, value for money.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

ingonominas.

The man who can make deals

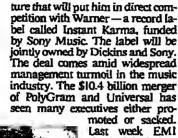
Rob Dickins, former chairman of Warner, is setting up a new label under Sony. Chris Ayres reports

hen The Corrs received their gong for Best International Group at last month's Brit Awards, they thanked a man unknown to most outside the music industry: Rob Dickins. Their appreciation was understandable. Dickins was responsible for signing the band to Warner Music in the UK -

the company of chairman until December last year and giving its traditional sound a more contemporary edge. The for-mula worked: the band's latest album has sold more than 2.5 mil-

Dickins, 48, was also responsible relaunching for Cher's career last year. He put together verses and choruses from several different song- Rob Dickins: new Sony deal writers to create

Believe, a song that made her one of 1998's biggest-selling artists. But while The Corrs and Cher thrived. Dickins's career suffered and last year, after 14 years as chairman of Warner, his bosses in the US decided not to renew his contract. Dickins found himself having to look for a new job while artists he developed stormed the charts. However, Dickins got his own back this week by announcing a new ven-



shocked the industry by making Eric Nicoli, the former head of United Biscuits, its new chief Dickins's deal meanwhile. thought to be the first of its kind. After all, Sony's usual strategy is to buy stakes in trendy independent record labels. such as Skint

(home to Fathov

Slim), and Crea-

tion (home to Oasis). The Instant Karma deal turns this strate-

> It is understood that Dickins who is also chairman of the music industry's trade body, the British Phonographic Industry, and who sits on the Government's music industry forum with Simply Red's Mick Hucknall - turned down a more lucrative label deal finally offered by Warner. This is hardly surprising. His departure from



Caroline Corr of The Corrs in concert at Wembley. Rob Dickins signed the hit band while at Warners

Warner (where he was paid an estimated £1.1 million a year) came after rows with his US bosses.

The bad feeling began in 1994 when the company offered Dickins the job of running Warner Bros Records in the US, only to withdraw the offer the next day. He says: "I had a choice between a deal with Warner and a deal with Sony. But if I'd taken the Warner deal it would have put me back into the place I'd been for the past 28 years." Dickins refuses to disclose financial details of his deal with Sony, but it is thought to involve the com-

pany investing tens of millions of pounds in Instant Karma. The label will be launched next month. Instant Karma will initially employ about ten staff, with sales and manufacturing being handled by Sony. Distribution of the label's CDs will be through The Entertainment Network, and a separate company will be set up to control pub-lishing. Although Dickins says he is "in discussions" with several artists, it is not yet clear what musical direction the label will take. Dickins is keen to dampen speculation that he will poach his favourite art-

ists from Warner Music. Despite Dickins's acerbic sense of humour, his success in the music industry has been attributed largely to his ability to get on with pop stars even difficult ones.

"It is not the intention to take artists away from other labels," he says. "If they want to come, we would welcome them but most have contracts they cannot get out of." Instant Karma's focus, he says. will be "somewhere between Kate Bush and The Four Tops". He adds, dryly: "I won't be putting a boy band together."

Get set to greet Hello! TV

A TELEVISED version of Hello! magazine may be on our screens shortly, says Marketing Week. The publishers have made a pilot for a programme based on its interviews with celebrities at their homes and have submitted it to ITV, either as a one-off programme or a series. Hello! suffered an 11 per cent fall in circulation last year and its lead over rival OK! is narrowing. A TV show could be a valuable weapon in the circulation battle.

■ THE Direct Marketing Association is split by what Market ing calls "the most damaging row in its seven-year history sparked by its invitation to Mark Bowler, director of media and

home shopping for the Royal Mail to join its board. Some DMA members think Bowler should step down on ground of conflict of interest

because the association is negotiating with the Royal Mail over postage rates and commissions. Defenders say that he leaves the room when the board discusses Royal Mail issues.

■ THE MIRROR is engaged on a "secret Project X" to boost its sales in the regions, according to the Press Gazette. Six journalists, who had been working on the company's abortive Sporting Life relaunch, have been assigned to produce regionalised editions of The Mirror, which may be accompanied by price cuts. "The project is so secret that those chosen will not know what they are working on until it hap-

■ CHANNEL 5 is defying threats of legal action and going ahead with a poster campaign aimed at spiking ITV's new News at 6.30, reports Media Week. Last week John Hardie, ITV's commercial director, wrote to the channel seeking the withdrawal of ads that claimed the ITV bulletin was stale because it went out a half hour later than the 6pm Channel 5 bulletin.

■ CHANGING FACES: Mark Gallagher from ITV network to be head of public affairs for ITN; former Cable and Wireless PR chief Adrian Moorey becomes corporate communications director for Civil Aviation Authority: Andrew Barnett from HSBC to head public affairs for National Consumer Council (PR Week). David Davies, Editor of Q magazine, made editorial director of Emap's newly launched Heat: Amanda Stevenson, Editor of IPC's Horse, to work on new

> project for Emap (Press Gazette). Michael Foster former chief executive of Chris Evans's Ginger TV. joins North-Films (Broadcast).

Cable operator Telewest appoints Philip Jansen from Dunlop Slazenger as group marketing director (Media Week).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: DFS Northern Upholstery moves most of its £30 million ad account to Young & Rubicam: Initiative Media wins European and Middle East media planning and buying for Calvin Klein: BT set to appoint Barraclough Hall Woolston Grey to handle publicity for change in phone numbers (Campaign). BMP OMD wins E5 million media strategy and buying account for Eurotunnel: Procter & Gamble to institute women's art prize worth £20,000 plus in relaunch of Oil of Ulay (Market-ing Week). Del Monte picks Bozell network for £5 million European campaign to put new life into the Man from Del Monte (Marketing).

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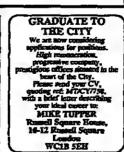
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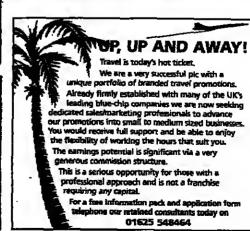
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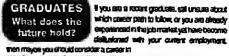
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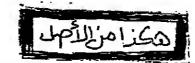
which career path to follow, or you are already

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The Porter Four. from left, Lori D'Angelo, Cara Rubinsky, Shawn Armbrust and Thomas McCann. The story of their investigation seems likely to be made into a Hollywood film.

Snatched from death's door

t was a journalism course with a difference. Four students were assigned to investigate the case of a man on death row, convicted of double murder, who had come within two days of being executed by the state of Illinois. But the students, Thomas McCann, Lori D'Angelo, Cara Rubinsky and Shawn Armbrust, were warned by their professor that the inmate could be dead by

Christmas. Six months later, 44-yearold Anthony Porter is alive k nome on the Sour Side of Chicago, a walking indictment of a criminal justice system that wrongfully imprisoned him for 17 years and would probably have killed him but for the efforts of McCann and friends. The students are now celebrities. Their scoop came thanks partly to their tenacity and partly to Professor David Profess, a driven mentor whose investigative journalism course at Northwestern University has become the unufficial vanguard of the state's anti-death

penalty movement. Since forcing the 1996 free-ing uf four black Chicago men wrongly sentenced to death for murder. Protess has received up to four letters a day from convicted inmates seeking him out as a de factu appeals court of last resort. If the available evidence looks flimsy, he may follow up, assigning cases to his undergraduate students on

a first-come, first-served basis. Now Protess's latest proteges are exhausted. The media attention has been endless. CBS filmed much uf their Anthony Porter was just days away from execution when four journalism students took up his case. Giles Whittell reports

cago press has been playing catch-up throughout.

The story began one August night in 1982 when a young black man and his girlfriend were shot in the head after an argument about drugs beside a swimming pool in Chicago's Washington Park. The park, 40 minutes from Northwestem's leafy Evanston campus. is fringed by some of the bleakëst and most dar housing projects in America.

Confronted by the dead bodies of Jerry Hillard and Mari-Green, police went straight for Porter. He had a reputation as a troublemaker and an IQ of 51. "He was a thug with a rap sheet and the cops were after him for every crime in the neighbourhood." says McCann. "They thought, 'If we can get him we'll be doing everyone a favour"."

They got him easily enough. finding two men prepared to identify him as the murderer, even though Porter swore that he was never at the pool that night. Convicted after a short trial, he was sentenced to death without his original lawyer present because his family had failed to come up with the \$10,000 required.

For the next 17 years the only challenges mounted against his conviction were based un claims that he was mentally incompetent to stand trial. This may have been true, but there were also what D'Angelo calls "blatant contradicuons" in the court record, including a claim by a crucial prosecution witness that Porter shot with his left hand even was alleged to have been.

though he is right-handed. Unusually, there was even an affidavit from the mother of one of the victims pointing to another man. Alstory Simon, as the culprit.

"It was pathetically obvious that someone else did it." says McCann, shaking his head. But nothing was obvious when the four began piecing to-

Rubinsky watched. The witnesses said that Porter ran the long way out of the have incriminated Porter. He pool's fenced grounds after the shooting, when his obvious escape route would have been dents. The combination worked Taylor signed an affi-davit recanting his entire trial through an exit yards from where the bodies lay. They also claimed to have identified testimony, and McCann ran him at midnight from a distance at which McCann and to a payphone to tell the profes-



Anthony Porter on his release after 17 years on death row

last September. All they knew was that ten days earlier he had been in a death-watch cell. 48 hours from a lethal injection, when an appeals court staved the execution pending a review

of his mental competence. About six weeks into their autumn term The Porter Four (they laugh at the team name) went to Washington Park to re-enact the crime. McCann played one of the key witnesses, D'Angelo the other. Armbrust put herself where Porter

nothing in broad daylight.

The group traced Alstory Simon to Milwaukee, a short drive north of Chicago and Armbrust's home town. She and Rubinsky visited him in mid-December for an informal interview, catching him in a state of selective amnesia. "He would oscillate between remembering nothing and remembering details that he could have known only if he was there," says Armbrust, who now wants to be a lawyer.

After their crash course in the flaws of American justice.

Sonon as the murderer.

Two days later McCann

went to see William Taylor.

the only surviving witness to

went with Paul Ciolino, a hulk-

ing private detective who often

works gratis with Protess's stu-

. Protess has a reputation

By the time Armbrust went

home for Christmas she was-

dreaming about the case, she

says. She spent much of the

holiday sifting through police

and court records in Milwau-

kee, where Inez Jackson.

Simon's girlfriend at the time of the killings, was also living.

in January, with the national media sniffing a big story but still several steps behind. Jack-

son agreed to be videotaped at

Armbrust's home identifying

for intensity and duly "started

screaming with excitement for

maybe three minutes".

the students took their tape not to the authorities, but to CBS. The next day Ciolino dropped In on Simon to remind him that he could save an innocent man by doing the right thing. Finally, after seeing Jackson on television, he confessed.

The fallout from Simon's confession has barely begun. As an ecstatic Porter was released into the arms of his student saviours last month, in front of Chicago's imposing Cook County courthouse, sen-

ior officials began squirming - and with good reason. Since reinstating the death penalty in 1976, Illinois has executed 11 inmates and freed 11. giving it, in Protess's words, "a 50-50 error rate" -- or worse, since

he is convinced that at least

one of those executed was

demonstrably innocent. Mainstream journalism has not distinguished itself either. in the students' eyes. "The media simply won't devote the re-sources for this kind of work." Protess says, "Most of what passes for journalism nowadays is reporters the phone and talking to politicians and celebrities, rather than going into the real world and talking to real people."

This summer D'Angelo will work as an intern at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. McCann will go to the Cincinnati Inquirer. Rubinsky and Arm-brust have not decided yet.

Meanwhilethe calls have been coming in from Hollywood. "Hundreds of them." Armbrust says.

Pipped at the post — again

IPC has beaten Cabal to two new magazine launches. Is this just coincidence, asks Naomi Marks

We do not

tailor our

plans

to the

activities

ess. Failures are not only expensive, but there is also a fair amount of face to he lost. For a young compa-ny with a high public profile the stakes are even higher. So when Cabal Communications, set up last summer

by the magazine supremo Sally O'Sullivan, announced an indefinite delay in the launch of Crime Weekby - aimed at filling a niche in the women's sector some at Cabal were irritated. The announcement came soon after a bigger publisher revealed that it was launching a one-shot.

Chat Crime & Passion, to test the same niche that Cabal had spotted. That the rival was IPC, which O'Sullivan had left to go it alone after failing in

her manage-ment buyout bid, added to the irritation.

But when news came that launch another spinning out of en's weekly Chat but this time dealing with health, that irritation turned to

downright an-

noyance. Chat Get Fit & Fab went on sale earlier this week - just as the first issues of Good Health, under Cabal's ownership, hit the streets. It seemed as if something was up, especially as Cabal is believed to have secured the purchase of Good Health over IPC because the title's former owner was said to have been impressed by Cabal's "entrepreneurial attitude".

the managing director of IPC's women's group, says the fact that its two Chat specials appeared just before Cabal's launches is an absolute coincidence. The ideas for the launches, she says, came out of IPC's 14,000-strong panel of women's magazine readers, now its main research weapon.
Results showed that more
than a third had been
robbed, burgled or mugged.
"[Crime] is an area that

aunching a magazine they are very interested in," can be a traught procsays Lancaster-Gaye. "Our strategy is to focus on such areas, see how they sell and then assess how often we might want to bring them to

Chat Get Fit & Fab also sprang from this research method, as will 23 more planned specials this year. O'Sullivan, recently re-

ported as saying that IPC was "on a mission to destroy us", is sticking to the same "coincidence" line as Lancaster-Gaye over the timing of Chat Crime & Passion. although she notes that 18 months ago, when she was at IPC, the company decided a crime-for-women title was a non-starter: "It was interesting to see them take this sudden direction. I had always thought it was a

good idea." And of the fact that IPC has announced a management overbalesque management structure, she says: "I'm sure that's a coincidence, too." There seem to

be some interest-

of rivals' ing dynamics between IPC and ployee. But O'Sullivan does not want, at least publicly, to speak of David and Goliath-style battles: "I

don't think we'd even rate on the David scale." Cahal, which was launched with £2.2 million in private backing, now has five titles, Front. The Real Homes Magazine, Good

Health, Maximum Moun-tain Bike and Procycling.
OSullivan, the former edi-Linda Lancaster-Gaye tor of Good Housekeeping among others, remains upbeat. She says the company is on course to fulfil its target of 12 launches in its first year. Crime Weekly. she says, will make an appearance, though she is not sure

> "Our plans are not, and never will be, tailored to the activities of another publishing house," she says, "We are just driven by the necessity of producing the very best magazines."

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

The F-word that hit the big time

DON KING wasn't the only winner in Madison Square Garden. While we wait to see if Lennox Lewis can overturn the injustice done to him in court or in the ring. Stephen Marks, the founder of French Connection, knows that he is on to a winner. It was Marks, through his ad agency

TBWA, that tied up a sponsorship deal with Lewis in December. In return for a reported £1.5 million (it was considerably less). Lewis agreed to wear French Connection's controversial "fcuk" logo on his shorts for the fight and in his training sessions. For Marks, the sight of Lewis at the weigh-in must almost have been better then the fight itself. But his eyes would not have been on Lewis's impressive torso, Instead, he could not have failed to nutice "fcuk" resplendent

on Lewis's ever-present ski hat. The only question is whether the French Connection chain stocked enough ski hats in the weeks ahead of the fight. Since the launch of the fcuk campaign two years ago. French Connection's fortunes have been transformed. At the end of its first year, group profits were up 32 per cent and

UK retail and wholesale profits up 72

per cent. UK sales were up a further 10 per cent in the most recent half-yearly results. There was a 21.5 per cent rise in group turnover. The company is opening new stores and franchises and the campaign is set to turn its fortunes around in the US. There, as here, the campaign is set to excite controversy.

And French Connection does not pretend any differ-ent. How could it when it has run rings around the Advertising Standards Authority, defending itself successfully against the charge that fcuk "brings advertising into disre-pute". Fcuk is the strongest evidence around that advertising is no longer just about creating a beautiful TV commercial and supporting it with press and

In fact all the distinctions between marketing disciplines that the industry clings on to in order to justify the status quo are entirely irrelevant to the late 1990s consumer. It's something TBWA's high-profile creative director, Trevor Beattle, has long understood. Think of the way he and his clients have exploited both free editorial coverage and integrated advertising, and packaging design for French Connection, Pretty Polly and Wonder-

poster ads.

bra. When consumers see fcuk on Lewis's shorts or hat, they don't think that's a clever piece of sponsorship, it's simply an ad. Make the imagery sur-rounding it cool enough and 1990s con-sumers will happily wear your ad for you. That's how "my place now", "Subliminal advErtising experiment", ")

you want" and "night all long" to-gether with the fcuk logo, have led to some 300,000 campaign T-shirt sales. The ad industry has never liked the campaign - partly because Beattie is a love-hate figure and because fouk is just a simple wordplay. That said, some of the greatest campaigns in British ad

history relied on a Lewis: headgear that says it all this goes on simple wordplay. and the feuk poster campaign has been the most noticeable of the past two

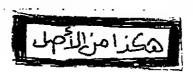
The genius is its somplicity. And there's luck. For instance, the Lennox connection came about because Beattie knows Lewis's manager. Frank Maloney. Beattle is a boxing nut who recently landed Muhammad Ali for an Equitable Life campaign. However, he has been too dismayed by the draw verdict to enjoy fcuk's success. IT WAS Billy Connolly who de-

scribed charity fatigue as "bollocks" during the recent Red Nose Day fundraising event. This week saw the launch of a new campaign that strikes ability to turn a blind

eye to those who need help. The new NSPCC commercial from Saaıchi & Saatchi highlights the idea of covering our eyes when confronting distress. It features a teddy bear, an Action Man, a poster of Alan Shearer, and all the Spice Girls on

adults being unbearably cruel to children. We don't see any shocking images. There is no blood or bruises or cowering children. And the ad is all the more powerful for it. The juxtaposition of such familiar icons with the notion of them covering their eyes is as disturbing an idea as you'll ever see in an ad.

Stefano Hatfield is Editor of Campaign



Permitting contraventions

Nuttall v Vehicle Inspector-

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Hobbouse of Woodbor-

Speeches March 181

"Permitting" contraventions of drivers' hours rules meant failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions, and failure by an employer to examine tachograph courts could amount to a prima lucie case of permitting contraven-

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the defendant. Shane Raylond Nunall, trading as Redline Coaches, from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Pop plewell) (The Times April 30, 1997 RTR 320, which had allowed an appeal by case stated by the prosecuior, the Vehicle Inspectorate, from

The justices had acquitted the defendant on 16 charges under sec-tion 96(HA) of the Road Transport Act 1968, as inserted by section 4(1) of and paragraph 9(2)(a) of Schedule 4 to the European Communilies Act 1972 and amended by sec-tion 2(1)(c), (e) and (f) of the Road Traffic [Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work] Act 1976, sections 38 and 4o of the Criminal Jusce Act 1982 and regulation 2 of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986)

Where, in the case of a driver of Britain a contravention of any requirement of the applicable Community rules as to periods of driv-ing or distance driven, or periods

on or off duty, then the offender

In re Ratcliffe, deceased

Before Mr Justice Blackburne

Where a restator bequeathed resid-

nary estate as to one-half to two non-charitable beneficiaries and

the remainder on trust for four charities in equal shares, the two

half shares of residue were to be calculated after providing for debts

and luneral and testamentary ex-

peases but before payment of the

the non-charitable beneficiaries'

nheritance tax due in respect of

Mr Justice Blackburne so held

in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on the applica-

tion of the executors and trustees of Marjorie Beryl Ratcliffe, deceased,

Judgment February [9]

Regulation 2 of the 1986 Regula-

whose orders the offender was subiect) who caused or permitted the contrevntion shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine ... '

Mr Timothy King, QC and Mr Mark Laprell for the defendant; Mr Jonathan Foster, QC and Mr Paul O'Brien for the prosecutor.

LORD STEYN said that the case concerned the owner of a coach business who had decided not to examine charts produced by tachographs installed in his vehithereby disabling himself from discovering a series of driv-

A rachoeraph was recording equipment that had the ability to record time, speed, distance travelled and work a driver was engaged on. It was a valuable aid in the promotion of road safety.

The charges against the defend-ant had been based on provisions of Council Regulation EEC 3820/85 (OJ 1985 L370/I) which laid down periods, breaks and rest periods.

As an operator of vehicles the de-lendant also had to comply with the requirements of Council Regulaonn EEC 3821/85 [OJ 1985 L370/8] which provided for the installation, maintenance and use of recording equipment or tacho-

graphs in vehicles. The justices had found that if the defendant had examined the charts he would have realised that the drivers had contravened the re-

But they had accepted that he had not examined them. In the case stated, explaining their reasons for dismissing the charges, they had said, inter alia:

"The defendant could not have the necessary knowledge to be

seeking the determination of ques-

tions relating to the construction of the will and of section 4! of the In-

By dause 4 of her will the testa-

tor bequeathed the residue of her

estate, after payment of usual ex-

nenses. "as to the one-half part

thereof for [the first and second de-

fendants in equal shares absolute-ly ... and as to the remainder of my

estate upon trust for the third to sixth defendants..."

Mr Michael Johnson for the

aintiff: Mr Nicholas Warren, QC

and Ms Emily Campbell for the first and second defendants; Ms So-

nia Proudman, QC and Mr Tom

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE

Dumont for the four charities.

heritance Tax Act 1984.

Calculating residue of estate

guilty of these offences solely by his charts ... [He] had no reason to examine closely the ... charts in the light of events at that time. The evidence before us did not lead us to find beyond a reasonable doubt that [he] did act recklessly or close

his eyes to events." Mr Justice Popplewell had said that the facts found by the justices supported a finding that the defendani had been reckless or had shut his eves to what was occurring. The defendant submitted that the Divisional Court had imper-

missibly blurred the distinction be-

rween recklessness and negligence. Depending on the context, "permit" was capable of bearing a narrow meaning of assenting or agree-ing to or a wider meaning of not taking reasonable steps to prevent something in one's power.

The latter best matched the present context, the manifest purpose of the Community rules being to place a responsibility on an em-ployer of drivers to use tachograph records to prevent contraventions and promote road safety. The contextual meaning of "permitting" in section 96(1)A) of the 1968 Act was failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions by drivers. The offence was not one of strict or absolute liability. Nothing less

than wilfulness or recklessness would be sufficient. In practice recklessness would be the relevant mens rea. If the defendant's state of mind was one of not caring whether a contraven-

would generally be sufficient to esablish recklessness.

Mr King had submitted that the prosecution had to prove at least that the defendant had had knowledge that the contravention was likely to occur, but his Lordship would not accept that qualification in the present context.

said that the half share of residue

to which the four charities were en-

ritled was exempt from the tax. The half share of residue to which the

first and second defendants were to-

Were the two half shares to be calculated after providing for the debts and expenses but before payment of inheritance tax due in re-

ant's half share, so that the net ben-

efit received by them would be less,

through having suffered deduction of tax, than the net benefit received

by the four charities: the gross divi-sion approach? Or were they to be

equal half shares of net residue af-

ter deduction of the appropriate

amount of inheritance tax: the net

gether entitled was not.

One had to take into account that the objective of section 96(IIA) and the applicable Community rules was to protect road users. By ignoring tachograph records an employer took the risk that that conduct might imperil the safety of the public.

in the circumstances, if anart from proof of a series of contraventions by drivers the only evidence was an explanation by the employ er that be had not examined the records over the relevant period. the case was capable of amounting m a prima facie case of failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions in the state of mind of not caring whether they took place or not.

But a prima facie case could be rebutted, for example, if an employ-er gave evidence that he had taken some other precautions to prevent

The justices had erred in concluding that the defendant had had no reason to check the tachograph charts. He had been obliged to perform periodic checks of them.

But the Divisional Court had

gone too far in directing the justices to convict. It was for the justices to consider the facts, and it had been for them to decide whether the defendant's evidence that he had relied on the scheduling of vehicles could rebut a prima facie case of recklessness.

The direction to convict should be set aside and the case should be returned to the justices for a retrial. Lord Slynn agreed with Lord Steyn. Lord Jaumoey agreed with Lord Steyn and Lord Nicholls. Lord Nicholls delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Hobbouse. Lord Hobbouse delivered an opin-ion concurring in allowing the ap-

Solicitors: Backhouses, Black-burn: Dooley & Co, Liverpool.

The latter was the result reached

in In re Benham's Will Trusts

(1995) STC 210). In his Lordship's view, the gross

division approach was correct. An equal division of disposable resi-

defendants and the four charlties

tributable to the first and second de-

fendants' half share was to be

borne by that share: to subject the

charities' half share to any part of

that burden was prohibited by sec-tion 41(b) of the 1984 Act.

any principle in Benham's Will Trusts and would not follow it.

Halifax: Paisner & Co; Campbell

His Lordship was unable to find

Solicitors: Jubb Longbothams.

Recovering receiver's costs

In re Andrews Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward [Judgment February 25]

legal costs. Where there had been no default by the prosecution, a receiver's costs of the receivership under a restraint order under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 could be recovered from the property subject to the or-

Even where the prosecution had failed in its entirety, the High Court did not have power to order that the prosecutor reimburse the defendant whose property had been subject to the order.

The Court of Appeal so beld dismissing the appeal of Thomas Charles Andrews from the dismissal by Mr Justice Owen on October 3, 1997 of his summons dated June 5, 1997 for the payment by the Ous-toms and Excise of the fees, chargdisbursements, expenses and all other costs of a receiver appoint-ed by Mr. Justice Schiemann under a restraint order pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 1988 on July 7,

Section 89 of the 1988 Act pro-

"(1) If proceedings are instituted against a person for an offence or offences to which this part of the Act applies and ... (a) the proceed-ings do not result in his conviction for any offence ... the High Court may, on application by a person who held property which was realisable property, order compensa-tion to be paid to the applicant if, having regard to the circumstances, it considers it appropriate to make such an order.

"(2) The High Court shall not order compensation to be paid in any case unless the court is satisfied (a) there has been some serious de-fault on the part of a person concomed in the investigation or prose-cution of the offence ... and (b) that the applicant has suffered loss in consequence of anything done in relation to the property by or in pur-suance of ... an order under this

Mr Victor Joffe for the appellant: Mr Andrew Mitchell, QC, for the Commissioners of Customs

LORD JUSTICE WARD said Thomas Andrews and his son Daniel had been arrested by Customs and Excise and charged with valtie-added tax offences.

Customs and Excise had seized

£42,305 from Thomas's home and applied ex parte against both fa-ther and son for restraint and charging orders over their realisable property.

The realisable assets included

the seized money, a property owned by Thomas and his wife and 56 heavy duty transport vehicles owned by companies which were alleged to be involved in VAT frauds. In the course of subsequent proceedings some £32,294 had been released by the receiver from the seized money, to pay Thomas's

On December 11, 1995 Daniel was convicted but Thomas was acquitted of all charges and an order was made that his costs be paid out The restraint order against Tho-

mas was discharged in January 1996. His solicitors subsequently realised that the receiver had re-tained the balance of the seized sum, £10,011. When asked to return it, the receiver said the bal-ance had been used to defray the prior costs of receivership.

The case boiled down to this

property appointed property recovered her properly incurred costs of the receivership from an asset she had received. Now that the receivership had been discharged, should those costs of the receivership lie where they jell?
There was no reported authority

on the question, although the fol-lowing principles seemed capable of being stated: 1 A receiver or manager appointed by the court was an officer of the court, not an agent of either party in the proceedings.

2 Receivers must look for their indemnity to the assets which were under the court's central

costs" no question of discretion

3 Unless any part of the receiver's remuneration could be treated as

gave him a continuing right to possession even after the discharge of the receivership order. In the instant case, there was an

agreement between the receiver and Customs and Excise that the latter would indemnify her if she were unable to bring in sufficient assets to meet her costs. That mirrored the statutory position under section 88(2) of the 1988 Act.

His Lordship found it intrinsical unfair that the applicant should be indemnified in the crown court but not in the Queen's Bench Division where the proceedings should stand or fall with the criminal pro-But if the costs of the receiver

ship were to be costs of and inciden tal to the proceedings and thus in the court's discretion by section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, then the costs of the receivership should be costs of the proceedings at all stages of those proceedings and in all events: The true position was that the in-

vestigation of whether or not the defendant had suffered loss by rea-son of the receivership was an in-vestigation which should be and or-dinarily would be conducted in deciding whether or not damages should be awarded against the plaintiff for breach of the usual undertaking as to damages a plaintiff would normally be required to

Such an investigation would ena-ble justice to be done. In the instant case no undertaking was given and none ordinarily was.

section 89 provided the defendant with the only relief to which Parlia-ment thought he was entitled. There was no suggestion that the Customs and Excise officers had been guilty of any default in their investigation or prosecution of the offences. Section 89 simply did not

provide an adequate remedy. His Lordship was, with unfeigned reluctance, compelled to conclude that even if the expenses of the receivership were within the definition of costs they were not costs "of and incidental to the proceedings. They must lie where they fell. The appeal would be dis-

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS agreed. On the facts of the case, the applicant might seem to have been treated unfairty as his £10,000 was used up as an expense of the receivership and therefore could not be

In his Lordship's view that was the result of the type of proceedings and the conditions for recovery

laid down in the Act. Parliament had specifically limited the reight to recover from a re-ceiver to cases where negligence

was established In his Lordship's judgment the claim was really a claim for com-pensation dressed up as an applicaion for an award of costs. Section 89 was the proper avenue for the claim.

Lord Justice Hirst agreed. Solicitors: Goldkorn Davies Matthias; Solicitor, Customs and

Appointing guardian ad litem

In re J (a Minor) (Adoption: Appointment of guardian ad Before Lord Justice Nourse and

Lord Justice Ward. Judgment March 101

In contested adoption proceedings the appointment of a guardian ad litero was entirely a matter within the discretion of the judge. There was no reason to upset a decision to appoint a person who was inde-pendent and unbiased but who had long been involved in the case. The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by the mother of a boy aged eight for heave to appeal against the appointment made by Judge Kenny in Reading County Court of the guardian ad litem in proceedings

to free her son for adoption. Mr Allan Levy, QC and Mrs Constance Whippman for the mother, Miss Gillian Brasse for the local authority; Mr Andrew

McFarlane, QC, for the guardian ad litem. LORD JUSTICE WARD said

that in 1996 a care order was made io respect of the boy. In 1999, pro-ceedings were launched to free him for adoption.

The mother sought the charge of the appointment of Mrs A as guardian ad litem. The allegation was that because Mrs A had participated in a meeting at which or gave an appearance of being so biased that she was incapable property of discharging her duties un-der the Adoption Act 1976 and the Adoption Rules (SI 1984 No 265) to safeguard the best interests of the child and to perform her duties.

Judge Kenny found that Mrs A had not displayed any bias, had been extremely sympathetic to the mother on many occasions, had im-mense knowledge of the case and was the right person to be guardi-an ad litem to the boy.

Mr Levy conceded that the appointment of a guardian ad livern was a matter within the judge's discretion but that that discretion was fettered. He drew the court's attention to a number of practice guides,

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Guidance for Guardians ad Litem and Reporting Officers (HMSO 1992) which together spelt out, he said, the need for true independ-His submission was that the

including the Manual of Practice

guardian had to be independent, to be seen to be independent, to come to the case without preconceived ideas and without any prior in-His Lordship said there was no

case. As for his exercise of discretion, far from there being anything plainly wrong with it, the advan-tages of having this guardian involved, for the reasons of her familiarity with the case and with the boy, were so overwhelmingly in fayour of her continuing that there was no possible prospect of success in the application.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a concurring judgment Solicitors: Ms Beverley Golden,

Southampton; Mr. David Over, Reading: Hodders, High Wy-

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Sir Tony Wrigley is due to vacate the office of Master on 30 September 2000, and the Governing Body wishes to elect his successor as soon as is convenient to all parties. A confidential list of names of men and women is being assembled for consideration, and suggestions for inclusion in the list will be gratefully received. Persons with suggestions to contribute are invited to nunicate in writing with the Senior Fellow (Dr. M.K. Tanner, Corpus Christi College, CB2 1RH). who will supply information concerning the Mastership on request.

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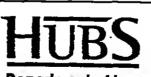
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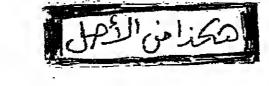
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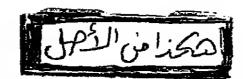


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Rachel Morris

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ATIM THOUSE



EDUCATION

brain is pre-wired to function better with exposure to classi-

cal music. In 1996 she divided

8,000 British children into

three sets similar to the Univer-

sity of California study. Before

spatial reasoning tests, one set

listened to Mozart, a second to

oral instructions and a third to Blur and Oasis. The Blur-Oa-sis group scored slightly high-er than the others, but no sig-

nificant differences appeared.

Perhaps a generation of mathe-

matical geniuses will one day

emerge to settle the issue.

LINKS

edpage@the-times.co.uk

www.geniusbabies.com

www.musica.cnlm.uci.edu



A classical upbringing. American research suggests that a baby can benefit by exposure to the music of Mozart and other great composers

atic' Music and brain power

The newest music craze to hit America does not rely on teen-agers, clubbers, or even pop acts yet is so hot that Sony Music's attempt to capitalise on it will produce 100,000 CDs this year. What makes this even more unlikely is that the target audience comprises newborn infants.

By tearning up with Sony to guarantee each child born in state hospitals a free copy of the music disc Build Your Baby's Brain Through The Power of Music, Zell Miller, Georgia's Governor, joins the growing number of parents expressing interest in the potential effects of classical music

on the newly born. - . gestiring that listening to classi-cal music can increase logic and mathematics abilities in infants, Governor Miller contacted Sony and began the CD giveaway last summer. The disc includes selections by

Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. The idea that prolonged lis- . tening to classical music can enhance brain development. dubbed the Mozart Effect, has been the subject of much recent research, in America and Europe. Parents who hope to "improve intelligeoce", as one advertisement puts it, can now choose from an array of products including CDs, interactive videos, and instructional books. One Internet company, Genius Babies, offers a variety of "developmental toys and products" to stimulate infant brains, including Baby Mozart, a video that Genius BaEvidence that classical music boosts a child's ability to reason is growing. John Elderkin reports

for young minds, seem to fit easily within this line of rea-

soning. Schools in Britain and

America report that if students

listen to classical music before

lessons, there are fewer disci-

pline problems. As a group, children who study music

score higher on standardised

intelligence tests than children

who do not. Dr Gordon Shaw

of the University of California

at Irvine has demonstrated

that pre-schoolers who learn

improve their spatial reason-.

says that his work with pro-

and learn to make musical

choices that serve as communi-

enhanced by exposure to mu-

None of this settles the issue

of whether merely listening to

classical music can increase a

person's intelligence. The most

persuasive evidence comes

from Dr Shaw's 1993 study

that generated most of this con-

troversy in the first place.

about, a music thera-

ing abilities noticeably.

bies claims can "increase brain capacity". Rhino Records in California also of fers specialities, including Baby Tunes: Mozart for Ba-bies, which features babyfriendly instruments and arrangements" featuring gentle

Don Campbell, author of two books on the Mozart Effect and purveyor of CDs with. names like Tune Up Your Mind and Mozart in Motion. rakes the long view. His advertisements cite disproportionately high numbers of musimedical schools, and claim that "the very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practising musicians".

Most psychologists agree that music stimulates newborn children. An Irish study claimed to show that babies can recognise specific music while in the womb. But there is no conclusive evidence on . what effect this has on developing minds. Researchers have demonstrated that a child's ability to reason, listen and, in effect, learn, develops rapidly until age six, then levels off. The more stimulation a young brain receives, the more it "de-velops", and therefore the higher the child's intelligence, or so.

the argument goes. Suggestions that classical music, with its combinations

of stirring and calming effects within complex and simple structures, is an ideal stimulus given spatial reasoning tests after listening to either ten minutes of Mozart's Piano Sonata

> The Mozart group scored better than the silence group.
> The next study tested students after they listened to Mozart, but this time the second group listened to rock music. The Mozart group again showed improvement.

K448 or ten minutes of silence.

Dr Frances Rauscher, a psychologist who worked with Dr Shaw, says that these results were misconstrued by many to suggest that only classical mued hate mail and even threats from rock 'n' rollers.

According to The Washing-ton Times, a Virginia high ete McPhail, a music school student tried to repliconsultant for Soundcate this study with mice. He py service in Oxford; exposed one group to hard rock music for ten hours a day foundly handicapped infants leaves no doubt that "one-year-olds respond to music for three weeks while testing the rodents' ability to navigate a maze. Another group of mice, exposed to classical music, actually increased their cation tools". In effect, these maze performance, while the hard rock mice killed and canchildren's language skills are nibalised each other. At that stage, the experiment was

brought to a halt.

Dr Susan Hallam of London's Institute of Education believes that music can stimulate children emotionally, perhaps putting them in a relaxed state of mind that might explain higher test scores. But she does not agree that the human

Can Whitehall run 24,000 schools?

rofessor Tim Brighouse, teachers' guru and inspirational chief educa-tion officer of Birmingham, let it be known this week that he would be resigning from the Government's standards task force. The decision will be a blow to David Blumkett, the Education Secretary, who is already struggling to convioce teachers that he has their best interests at heart. But what difference will it make in the classroom?

The resignation has been interpreted as the result of an inevitable clash of personalities between Professor Brighouse and Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. The pair had been appointed

joint vice-chairmen of the task force to embody the Govern-ment's promised combination of "pressure and support" to raise standards in schools.

Clashes there certainly have been. Professor Brighouse accused Mr Woodhead's Ofsted agency of "conducting a reign of terror; the Chief Inspector has responded in kind several times. Professor Brighouse acknowledged yesterday that he and Mr Woodhead had "disagreed about practically every-thing", but the suspicion remains that the resignation has more to do with a feeling that he was wasting his time.

The task force was established in a blaze of publicity almost two years ago, part of Mr Blunkett's promise to transform the Department for Educatioo and Employment into an "evangelist" force to spread best practice among exhaple. The to spread best practice among schools. The Education Secretary chose to chair the committee himself, pepperiog the membership with well-known classroom practitioners.

But what has the body actually achieved? There have been regular meetings, including a weekend session at Windsor, and subcommittees have been formed. But nothing has ever been published and its workings remain a mystery to outsiders. Perhaps the opposing philosophies of Professor Brighouse and Mr Woodhead have produced a stalemate, but the impression has been created of an ineffectual talking shop.

Cries of "told you so" must be echoing around Whitehall, as teachers' leaders queue up to remind ministers that they said from the start that the harnessing of opposites would never work. Many saw the appointments as a means of preventing a damaging public feud between two senior government advisers, neither of whom has spoken with much enthusiasm about the work of the task force since.

The deafening silence that has surrounded the task force contrasts sharply with the rest of the DIEE's evangelist mission. Strate-gies and targets have tumbled out of the de-partment with a regularity that has alarmed many head teachers. Almost 200 civil servants and secondees from the world of education have changed the relationship between schools and Government. Primary schools. in particular, are now subject to more detailed prescription io mathematics and English than Mr Blunkett's predecessors ever dreamt possible.

Criticism of such interventionism has be-come the Tories' main avenue of attack in education debates. David Willetts, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, constantly urges Mr Blunkett to leave teachers to exercise some professionalism, accusing him of ever-increasing centralism. It is a charge that is difficult to refute, but ministers appear confident that parents will back them while their efforts are obviously directed towards raising standards.

> Time will tell whether central directive is more successful than local initiative and what the impact will be on teacher recruitment. Critics argue that talented graduates

will be even less likely to join a profession where their room for manoeuvre is so limited, but it may be that the absence of effective classroom guidelines has in the past acted as a discouragement.

Professor Brighouse is maintaining a discreet silence on where he stands in this debate, but it is noticeable that he is also resigning from the Government's task force on educational development. He insisted yesterday that his motivation was the need to devote more time to Birmingham, but his approach in the city has been very different from the Government's. He wrote a series of articles on the teaching of reading, for example, but stopped short of telling teachers to use phonics, the cornerstone of the Government's liter-

Like the orginal concept of combioing pressure and support, there is a fine line to be drawn between spreading effective class-room practice and trying to control 24,000 schools from Whitehall. John Donford, gen-eral secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said last week that he hoped the literacy strategy was not too successful, or ministers would want to direct teaching in all subjects. He was only half-joking.



Just make it wicked

Children want a sophisticated read, says Rachel Morris

eally, it's enough to make a mother weary. As the parent of any ten-year-old will tell you. we are in the season of educational pan-ic. The results of tests for independent schools are due; and at the end of May every Year 6 child in the country must endure the SATS (the Government's standard assessment tests). The school tells us that the SATS are not important but the children know bener. If the SATS don't matter, why have they been revising for them since September?

And now, to add to my weariness, a magazine has landed on my desk. JAM.
"the first educational magazine for eight to II-year-olds", as the press re-lease describes it, is said to be filling a gap in the market, although this gap is not very apparent, because the shelves in our local bookshop are groaning with educational books for children, the shelves in our Apple dealer's shop are loaded with more of the same and I cannot find anything in our local toy shop that does not claim to have an educa-

tional purpose. I tried out JAM on half a dozen nine and ten-year olds, three boys and three girls, half of them fairly academic and half of them not. All thought it a bit on the thin side for £1.95 and that it looks like the freebie magazines they are given at school by a well-meaning but dull local authority. The more academically inclined were happy to do the quizzes and the boys quite liked the articles on planets and electricity, although the

girls grouned at the babyish story. But when I handed it to the less aca-



Rachel Morris and some of the magazine's target audience

the cover (which asked them to practise their mathematics and English skills), then flipped through it in a polite but bored way. They all told me that it wasn't wicked (by which they mean not stylish, not glossy and especially not ingerous enough)

And that is the problem. These are children who can reach the highest levels on the PlayStation (ask a ten-yearold the significance of this) who can perform grinds oo the pavement (again consult a ten-year-old) and who can

glide on Rollerblades like birds. All their lives they have been woord by manufacturers selling the latest high-tech equipment. For these chil-

demic children, they took one look at dren, fashion is something to die for, and they think that they can lead deeply stylish lives without knowing the first thing about dividing fractions.

It is going to take more than a Blue Peter-ish magazine to enchant these children with education. But then, as all of them said, JAM is aimed not at them but at me. Would I buy it? Quite possibly, although I doubt that it will make much difference to their educational achievements. At this minute, four of my guinea-pigs are performing jumps on their Rollerblades, while two are giggling over a bad film version of Jane Eyre. One way or another, most tenyear-olds these days are far more sophisFREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS COMPETITION TOKENS FOR YOUR SCHOOL



the Times, with Virgin Radio, is giving three schools the chance to win a prize of 100,000 Books for Schools tokens each. These tokens could provide all three winning schools with up to 1,000 books each. Registered schools have until noon today to enter. Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday your school could be featured on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show between 6.30am-9.30am. Schools which have entered will be chosen at random to take part in this great Books for

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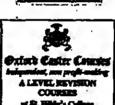
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of Michael Oakley at the end of 1999, after 16 years' service. The GDST is the largest group of independent schools in the UK with 19,500 pupils in 25 schools in England and Wales. The Trust employs over 3,000 staff, of whom 50 work in the Trust Office. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing the policy of the Council and leads the Trust Office team, which undertakes much of the bursarial administration of the

schools, provides a range of professional advice to the Council, the Heads

and the schools, and manages the capital building programme and the overall financial budget. The initial salary will be in the region of £30,000, depending on experience To obtain further information about the appoint (including perticulars of how to apply), please contact: Mrs V Relf, GDST, 100 Rochester Row, London SWIP 1JP. Fax 0171 393 6789.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 14th April 1999.





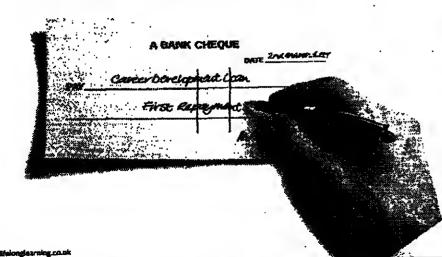
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Lowery puts on style around the greens

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

STEVE LOWERY, an amiable journeyman professional who ambles along the fairways with a permanent grin on his face, gave an immaculate display of putting in the opening round of the Bay Hill Invitational and Colin Montgomerie had a ringside seat as he did so. As Lowery holed putts from all over the place on his way to a 67. Montgomerie, one of Lowery's playing partners, had to grit his teeth and accept that the putts disappearing from view for Lowery will not do the same for him.

Juble

Montgomerie, playing in the first group of the day. admits that it is a long time since he putted well. Last week, at a tournament just down the coast, he was accurate from tee to green and averaged 32 or 33 putts for each round. It was more of the same yesterday when, if anything. Montgomerie was even more accurate but could not convert this into anything better than a one-under-par 71.

On a glorious morning, with little or no wind and a temperature in the low eighties. Montgomerie, Lowery and Neal Lancaster had no one in front either to hold them up or leave any indentations in the greens, just about perfect conditions.

For the first few holes, there was dew on the ground. Mont-gomerie played his last six holes with only three errors, all on the 16th, and one of those was so slight that it can hardly be described as such. His drive had to go down the left-hand side of the fairway to facilitate the second shot on

*. 4°

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127

this long par-five. Montgomerie's travelled a little too far left and ended in rough. The lie was not penal. enough to prevent him from into a greenside bunker, hard-pionship next week. I shall ly the most beinous crime.

hole, so the bunker shot was more difficult than usual. Montgomerie managed this beautifully, his ball landing on the firm green 20 feet or so short of its target and stopping three feet short of the flag. He missed the putt, and

demonstrated mock anger by pretending to hurl his putter at his bag as it lay on the ground and pretending to do likewise with his glove.

Otherwise, his striking was solid, his accuracy excellent. All that was missing was similar accuracy with his putter. He holed from no more than three feet on the 13th after a wonderful approach, but putts for birdies on the 14th, 15th 17th and 18th all missed. None was longer than 18 feet, and just to rub in his own feelings of frustration. Montgomerie had to watch Lowery hole twice from 15 feet, twice from 25 feet and once from 35 feet.

During Lowery's outstanding round, he could not help but be reminded of a personal tragedy that had befallen him and his family last month. Lowery was competing in Tuc-son, Arizona, when his house on the side of the 4th hole here burned down. It is still a sorry sight. "Three more 67s and he will he able to afford to buy a new house," Montgomerie

It is one of life's rules that there is always someone worse off. No matter how much Montgomerie bemoans his present lack of success with the putter, he is playing better than Thomas Bjorn.

Bjorn had an eight on a parfive, a five on a par-three and finished with a 79. I am doing all the things I normally do. but it is just not there," Bjorn said. "I am going to miss the cut here and that means I shall the most beinous crime. practice and try and get some feel back into my swing."



Ross McParlane, whose interest in the Sunningdale Foursomes ended yesterday, plays at the 3rd hole

McFarlane feels the pain

ONE of the enduring charms of the Sunningdale Four-somes is its total disrespect for Walters and McEvoy won reputations: the player who enters it expecting past achievement to be of the slightest relevance is liable to come nasty cropper. Ask Ross McFarlane - the cropper he came yesterday was a classic. of its kind.

McFarlane, the only European Tour professional to survive to the quarter-finals of. this the tournament this year. is a good, steady tournament golfer who won the European Tournament Players' Championship in 1997, for which he got a five-year exemption. His exemption to play in the 1999 Sunningdale Foursomes, on the other hand, ran out abruptly when be and Mark Palmer were shunted into a siding by the amateur pairing of Lisa

Walters and Richie McEvoy.

inches. The hole was halved at the 19th hole with a birdle four, but the force had been in four, the match all-square. McFarlane and Palmer had with them for a good longer than that McFarlane and had their chance, had not taken it and were about to pay the price, the handicap of having to give six strokes to Palmer played enough decent golf to have won inside 18 holes, but the amateurs stock their opponents ultimately too their coat-tails with relentless determination

PUBLIC NOTICES

It was all square after 17 holes and both pairs missed the green at the 18th. McFarlane had a tricky little shot from off the green and handled it well, easily chip-ping to 15 inches. Professional 1, Amateur 0, right?

Wrong. The pressure was on Walters. A duffed shot here would have seen the curtains drawn discreetly over the match, but she rose to the occasion like a veteran, splashing out of greenside sand to six

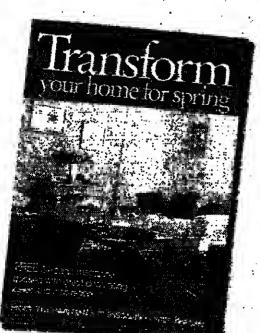
RESULTS FROM SUNNINGDALE

POURTH ROUND: M Plumber (Castle Coombe) and I Hamson (Ross-on-Wye) bt K Staunton and Z Scotland (Woodcote Park) 1 hole; A Boatman (Royel Worlington) and C Manson (Sunningdale) bt N Hansen and D Parris (North Foretand) 2 and 1; M Patmer (Mill Ride) and R McForlane (PGAET) bt D Honarn and L James (Cast Dorset) 4 and 3; L Walters (Chevin) and R McEvoy (Thorpe Hill) bt A Waltowright (Carforth) and A Ambitor (Malton Golf Centre) 3 and A Ambier (Mailion Golf Centre) 3 and 2; S Moir (Lethern Grenge) and E Wison (Forlar) bit 7 Palvison (Lether-head) and B Goudie (Epson) 1 hole; T Markelde (Scuth Winchester) and I

Roper (Corhampton) bi M Side (Shirley Park) and D Clarke (Fishmond) at 20th; D Copsey (Couladon Menor) and J Edwards (Knole Park) bi W Salthouse and Y Ali (Ealing) 2 and 1; B McColl and S Shields' (Thorpe Half) bit P Creamer (Chuddingfold) and C Cowper (Jack Nickleus Golf Centre) 2 and 1.

QUARTER-FINALS: Bostman and Manson bt Plumber and Hamson at 20th; Welters and McCarty to Markwick and and McCartane at 19th; Markwick and Roper bl Moir and Wilson 4 and 3; McColl and Shields bt Copsey and

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CHANGING TIMES

Nicholas gets quickly back into the swing ALISON NICHOLAS returned to competition with an opening birdie four in the first round of the Standard Register Ping at Moon Valley in Phoenix, Arizona, yesterday. The Englishwoman, who won the Sunrise Hawaiian Open last month, started at the 10th, a par five of 530 yards, and holed a 10-foot putt

for her birdie, the best possible start after a two-week break. The early leaders, at two under par, included the distinguished trio of Se Ri Pak, Helen Alfredsson and Meg Mallon, as well as Sophie Gustaison, a promising Swede who has had an unpromising start to the season. She has missed four cuts in seven tour naments so far, but went out in 34, two under par, with bird-

ies at the 1st and 8th. At the 9th, where her drive finished so close to the water that she was in danger of falling in as she swung. Gus-tatson cleared the lake with her second, but tweaked it well left and did superbly to rescue her par four.

Mallon, who conceded Gustafson a generous half in their singles match at the Solheim Cup at Muirfield Village last September, is renowned for her sporting nature. Next week, she is to receive the Wil-

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA liam and Mousie Powell Award, a tribute from her peers, who vote each year for the member who best exemplifies the spirit, ideals and values of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Tim Howland, the relatively new chief executive of the Euro pean LPGA Tour, is here with John Mort, the tour's manag-ing director, for consultations with the Solheim family, sponsors of the blennial Solheim Cup and the US LPGA, whose new commissioner takes office on Monday. Ty Votaw, who has worked for the US LPGA for several years, is replacing Jim Ritts, who is moving into the Internet business



LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

won by Alex Boatman, whose

mother, Liz, is a former Curtis

Cup captain, and Crispin

Manson, who beat lan Harri-

son and Mark Plummer at

the 20th hole, while the other

two matches brought easy vic-

tories for Bill McColl and

Stephen Shields and Tim

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTIONS 8(5) AND 10(6) OF THE **TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984**

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

licence under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to run telecommunications systems for Project Connect: a Government Private Finance Initiative to easure that London Underground Limited (LUL) receive the modern transmission and radio services its railway business requires. The Licence will be for a period of 25 years subject to earlier revocation in specified circumstances.

2. The principal effect of the licence will be to enable CTL to install and run a cation system for the provision of a wide range of telecome services to LUL (and any successor train operating company), the British Transport Police, any person providing services to LUL (or any successor train operating company) relating to the operation of the London Underground (for example, future infrastructure companies proposed under the Government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) proposals), any sub-contractors who are engaged in the construction, maintenance, operation or safety incidents on the Underground.

The Secretary of State proposes to apply the Telecommunications Code ("the Code") to CTL subject to certain exceptions and conditions in a restricted geographical area. The effect of the exceptions and conditions to the application of the Code is that the Licensec

(a) to comply with various safety and environmental conditions, in particular (with certain excentions) to install lines underground or only on such above-ground apparatus as is already installed for any purpose:

(b) to comply with conditions designed to ensure efficiency and economy on the par of the Liceusee, in connection with the execution of works on land concerning the installation, maintenance, repair or alteration of its apparatus; (c) to consult certain public bodies before executing particular powers under the Code including the local planning and highway authorities. English Nature and the National

Trust, as well as relevant electricity suppliers: (d) to keep and make available records of the location of underground apparatus and copies of the exceptions and conditions in the licence to their powers under the Code;

(e) to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet certain liabilities arising from the execution of works.

4. The reason why the Secretary of State proposes to apply the Code to CTL is because he does not consider it practicable for the system to be installed in the envisaged timescales. without its application and because it appears to him that the running of the system will

The reason why it is proposed that the Code as applied should have effect subject to certain exceptions and conditions referred to above are that they are considered requisite or expedient for the purpose of securing that the physical environment is protected, that there is no greater damage to land than necessary, that the systems are installed as safely ically as possible, and that the Licensee can meet (and relevant persons can enforce) liabilities arising from the execution of works.

6. Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed licence, the application of the Code to CTL and the exceptions and conditions referred to above. They should be made in writing by Thursday 15th April 1999 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 275/Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licence can be freely obtained by writing to the Department or by calling 0171-215 1785.

Roger Close Department of Trade and Industry

IN THE MATTER OF EXLEGROYS
LIMITED (A COMPANY INCOMPOARTED IN ENGLAND AND WALES
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MOTHER OF GOVERN HAS the June

Ignown cruditors have been, or w be, paid is full. DATED THIS __ TARY OF __1999 Thomas Michael Rogers Liquidator

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RACING: FITZGERALD HELPS BROTHER-IN-LAW TO OVERHAUL PIPE WITH GOLD CUP WIN

Nicholls has sights set on trainers' title

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE brothers-in-law made Cheltenham a family affair again. Paul Nicholls and Mick Fitzgerald were once more the centre of attention after See More Business's Tote Gold Cup win and a remarkable Festival has opened up unexplored horizons for them both. Nicholls could even disturb an apparent monopoly by becoming the season's champion

trainer.
The Gold Cup prize-money of £150,000 took Nicholls ahead in the trainers' table for the first time. Martin Pipe, undisputed champion for so long, is suddenly under threat. "To be on top for one day is good enough," beamed Nicholls. "We've cracked it. But I have still got 60 horses to run and I can tell you I'll be going for it."

It is barely conceivable that Fitzgerald will take the National Hunt jockeys' title - at least unless something dreadful befalls Tony McCoy, who still leads him by 34. But for a man who almost gave up on British racing, four Festival winners and the London Clubs Trophy as jockey of the meeting is not bad to be going on

Fitzgerald has never been short of something to say and he was typ-ically eloquent after the middle leg of yesterday's 636-1 treble, begun by Katarino in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle and concluded by Stormyfairweather in the Cathcart

Challenge Cup.
Declining the offer of victory champagne, he spoke bubblingly of See More Business, then reflectively of his own altered circumstances. "I could be rounding up sheep in New Zealand," he said. "I was ready to go there a few years back, even had a job lined up, but a small trainer called Ray Callow rescued my career here." Fitzgerald, 28, was born in Cork

and served his apprenticeship on the Curragh but he was always destined to be too heavy for the Flat. On coming to England, he scraped a living riding as a freelance but it was only when he joined Nick Henderson that he left the breadline of his profession and fulfilment beckoned.

When he won the Grand National on Rough Quest in 1996 he caused mirth among others and months of teasing for himself by saying on tele-vision that the feeling was better than sex". He was more cautious yes-



FESTIVAL

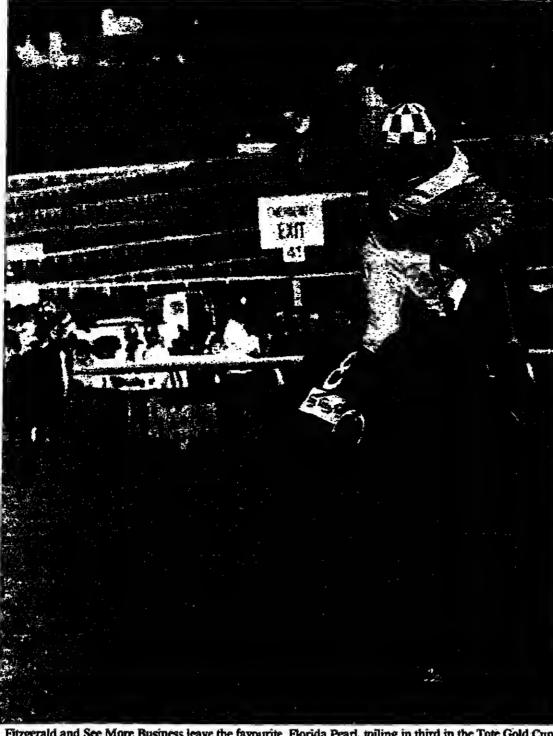
terday but explained: "When I got beaten in the Gold Cup on Rough Quest that same year I was absolutely gutted. I wanted to feel what the winner was feeling and, now that I do, it won't go away for a very long

Nicholls, whose wife Bridget is the sister of Fitzgerald's wife. Jane, grew up just outside Bristol, the son of a policeman. After a successful career as a jockey, he began renting the sta-bles owned by Paul Barber at Ditcheat, Somerset, in 1991. He had the benefit of some affluent owners but long ago discarded the need for privilege. Nicholis has established a training

method that works and a team of trusted aides that gels. His head lad, to whom he gave much of the credit for Call Equiname's win is the Queen Mother Champion Chase, is Clifford Barker, previously with David Nicholson, Barker has had previous Festival triumphs to savour but, for Nicholls, it was virgin territory. "I suppose I did begin to wonder if

I would ever have a winner here but you have to put that sort of thing behind you and get on with life," he said. "Now, it has all changed." A winner on each day of the greatest show in racing has made sure of that and now there are no boundaries beyond Nicholls. Pipe is a restless sort at the best of times but sleep may have been exceptionally clusive last

☐ A Tote Jackpot pool of £295,473 is carried forward to Fakenham today. The Tote also announced record oncourse turnover for the three days at Cheltenham this year. A total of E8,169,769 represented an increased



Fitzgerald and See More Business leave the favourite, Florida Pearl, toiling in third in the Tote Gold Cup

Retirement looms for Nick Dundee

NICK DUNDEE needed so much luck to escape with his life at Cheltenham on Wednesday that he seems unlikely to be granted the surplus necessary for him to race again. The Irish novice had given substance to his huge reputation by reaching the third last in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase on the bridle, but his fall at that fence appears to have brought a

By CHRIS MCGRATH

cast fitted to his left hind leg at Valley Equine Hospital in Lambourn. His owner, John Magnier, is seeking advice on X-rays of the fetlock joint from vets at Coolmore Stud and in America, but the odds are firmly against the horse racing again. Trevor Sainty, a spokesman for the Hospital, heartbreaking end to the most promising of careers.

Nick Dundee has had a splint and injury but the leg is weight-bearing."

The other unhappy episode at Cheltenham on Wednesday con-cerned Tony McCoy's use of the whip on Majadou in the Mildmay of Flete Chase, Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's director of regulation, yester-day elaborated the reasoning behind the four-day suspension - for hitting his mount when clearly winning, and doing so in the wrong place anyway.
"He was hitting the horse across the ribs and he knows that is wrong,"

The joy and pain of business at the racecourse

horse-people use a lot He's a really genuine horse, we say. Not meaning that he's genuinely got four legs with hooves on, but that there is a fundamental honesty about him. At base, he is on your

Ask him to jump some thing, and if he can, he will: straight and true and no messing about. Ask him to gailop, and he'll gallop. If he hurts, he will genuinely try to work through the pain: be cause he's that type of horse.

No doubt about the human star of the Cheltenham Festival: Paul Nicholls, a man with a full moon face who looks like a copper. Those who watched Channel 4's coverage over the past three days will have had plenty of opportunity to get an impres-sioo of Nicholis, because he kept being interviewed in the

winner's enclosure. Three winners, including the big one, the Gold Cup yesterday, with See More Business. Speaking pleasant-ly, modestly, with a West Country burn no airs, no side. no pretension. A thoroughly good sort and I think utterly

I went to visit him a week before the Festival, at a time when most trainers simply cannot be bothered with strangers coming to the yard. But it is Nicholls's nature to be obliging. And as to looking like a copper well, it is all in the genes. His dad was a

Nicholls would make a very decent bobby himself: but it happened that he got the horsey bug when young a changeling, a cuckoo in the nest. And he has got to where he is on that devastatingly original mixture of hard work and talent. He trains down near Castle Cary in Somerset. and his horses run up the steepest gallop I have ever seen: "Like the north face of the Eiger," John Francome. told viewers.

I paid my visit in order to have a few words with Double Thriller, the unknown quantity of the race. But the previous year. I had paid Nicholls a visit to talk to another big, burly steeplechaster, See More Business. And there was something about him I took to at once.



Swaggering out of his box with an air of effortless dominance body language that re-minds you of that great dominant type, Desert Orchid: the same swagger, the same self-belief. And liking the horse I was dismayed when he was carried out of the Gold Cup last vest.

فتأث الرزيج بالر

SHOW CASE MARKET

But when asked to pick my horse to follow for the season for Horse and Hound, I went back to See More Business and seemed at once to have put the kibosh on his entire season. Very quiet a shadow of his former self. Overlooked in just about every preview of

the big race.
And me, I was all over Tecton Mill, the grey trained by Venetia Williams. Lord, this is a fearful game: television brought us that image of Tecton Mill, whacking a fence and in the first stride after wards I shouted aloud: "He's gone." We heard later that Teeton Mill had slipped the tendon off his off-hind hock leaving his career in the

At the other end of the race all was joy, as See More Busi-ness ran on up the hill with the strength and the courage of a truly genuine horse. He should have won it last year:

but never mind that now. It was a great run, and as Nicholls, for once putting modesty aside, felt obliged to point out, it puts him at the top of the trainer's table.

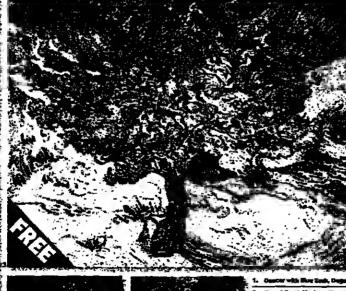
So it is time to cheer a thoroughly decent man, and his thoroughly genuine horse. Another Festival ends, and the nerves of all involved have been given the once over by a mechanical flail. There is no other game in which joy and angoish are so close. Television and Channel 4, by bringing us the joy and never ducking, though never gloating over the anguish did us proud:

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 48 -Responder's second bid after opener has shown extra values

In the last couple of weeks I have looked at responder's second bid after opener's minimum rebid. If opener makes a bid which shows extra values the principles are the same but it is often difficult for inexperienced players to appreciate that when opener shows a good hand they do not need such a good hand themselves in order to bid on.

Take the following rather ordinary responding hand: **▲**A1065 ♥ 1054 ♥ Q5 **♣** K1086

Now consider the following bidding sequences:

opener t D	Hosp'r	(B) Opener 1 D		· (C)	Opener 1 D	Resp'r
2 D	?	3 D	? .		35 .	?
	D	D 15	D 18 1D	D 15 1D 1S	D 1S 1D 1S	D 15 1D 15 1D

should try Three No-Trumps. The queen of diamonds should help solidify partner's suit and the ace of spades is a sure trick. All should be well if the opponents can't take too many hearts and there is no way to find that out. The game bonus is worth taking some risk. Generally speaking, when your partnerships main suit is a minor try, should profess to have nership's main suit is a minor you should prefer to have a go at Three No-Trumps about because eleven tricks are a lot to make. On Sequence (C), while responder would have happily passed a raise to Two Spades, it is clear to press on to game when partner shows extra values.

Those were all pretty straightforward. Now try these: (D) Opener Resp'r (E) Opener Resp'r (F) Opener Resp'r 3 D 3 C

On Sequence (D) you are well worth a raise to Three No-Trumps, though you might have settled for a conservative raise to Two No-Trumps had partner simply rebid One No-Trump. On Sequence (E) partner has forced to game (i.e. shown 19 HCP or equivalent) with at least five hearts and at east four diamonds. You should show your three-card support teast four diamorius. You should show your inree-card support for his first suit by giving him preference to Three Hearts. On Sequence [F] partner has also forced to game but this time has five diamonds and four clubs. Although you have only 9 HCP you have a great hand - the queen of his first suit, four-card support headed by the king for his second suit and an ace on the side. Raise him to Four Clubs because there may be a slam in clubs - but more of this in a future lesson. in clubs - but more of this in a future lesson.

You can get any lessons you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HPI3 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

a. A footballer b. A bowl

TOWHEE a. An urban dweller b. An ejaculation of triumph



BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Loss on time In the 19th century, tournament chess was often painfully

slow, since there was no constraint in early competitions on the speed at which players moved. For over 100 years though, chess clocks have regulated the rate of play. The harsh penalty for exhausting your thinking time is to lose by

In today's game, which com-pletes my record off all the decisive encounters from Linares. grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk achieves a winning posi-tion against Britain's Michael Adams. However, on the very last move of the time control. Ivanchuk's clock flag fell be-fore he could finish making the move on the board. This victory briefly catapulted Michael Adams into sole lead in the tournament.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk Black Michael Adams Linares 1999

Nimao-Indian Defence N/3 Nd2 dxc5 Bd3 Bh4 8g3 13 0-0-0 Qxf6 Nb3

Rxc6 Bxc4 a5 Bf7 Bx06 b4 asb4 Kxb4 Rxd6 Rd7+ Rd7.+ Ba4

Rs7 c d e

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend cohumn.

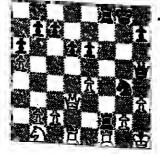
Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmastrom international Grandmaster Raymond Keenes daily col-umn in *The Times*, and is avail-able now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend sec-tion on Saturday

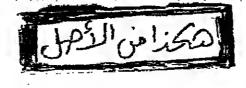
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Na5



UPPING Black to play. This position is 2. An Old Boy of Uppingham from the game Aaron - Keene, b. A diacritic mark Hong Kong 1984. The black rooks are powerc. Persecuting swans fully placed. How did he now UYEA make maximum use of them a. The vine to tear into the white kingside: b. No Way t. The coloured bit of the eye Answers on page 50 Solution on page 50



Chris McGrath on a tenacious performance by horse and rider in the Stayers' Hurdle

Johnson works hard for Anzum reward

THE conjunction of the Cheltenham Festival and David Nicholson's sixtieth birthday always promised trou-ble. After the remarkable victory of Anzim in yesterday's Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, however, they will do well to distinguish today's party from the celebration of the trainer's seventieth. There will, at any rate, be few finishes to match this epic in the interim the interim.

H 19 1999

Betting at this year's Festival has reached a new intensity and punters were especially inspired by the Stayers. A triangular market had formed between Le Coudray, exported from France to Ballydoyle by the intrepid J P McManus and the antepost gamble of the meeting: Lady Rebecca, unbeaten in four visits to Cheltenham this season; and Deano's Beeno, a typically doughty mont-runner trained by Martin Pipe. At 40-I. Anzum was running for the bookmakers.

Deano's Beeno was expected to examine his rivals' stamina but the drying ground appeared to inhibit the freedom of his gallop and rhythm of his jumping. Instead it was Sallie's Girl who took command on the home turn, where Lady Rebecca drifted wide, taking Le Coudray with her, Norman Wilhamson and Charlie Swan both held their mounts together for the final climb, Swan on Le Coudray finding his task conspicuously the easier

as they swamped Sallie's Girl. He waited until well inside the last 100 yards before bursting two



FESTIVAL

lengths clear. Suddenly, however, there was Anzum. At the final hurdle, he had laboured into fourth; a yard from the line, he plunged his neck in from Richard Johnson, who had already rowed from Putney to Mortlake before the others came off the bit, reserved a last kilojoule to

clench his fist in exultation.
"I walked off the lawn thinking he was going to be third or even second and that was great." Nicholson said. "I couldn't see the big screen. Then Arthur Moore came up to me and said we'd won. I couldn't believe him. The borse was never on the bridle and at the turn I thought he'd be placed at best, but Richard just kept kicking and pushing."

Johnson, 21, was breaking his Festival duck but will ride many more winners up a hill that punishes any faltering of conviction in horse or everything," he said. "I think I'm as shocked as David."

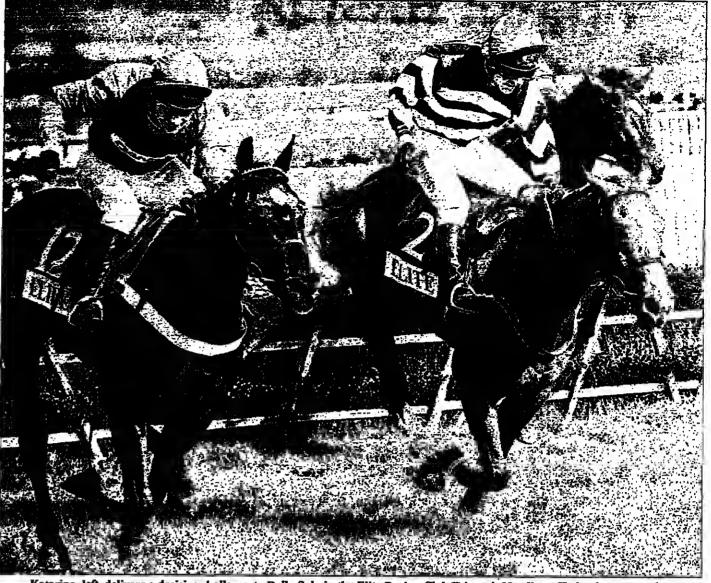
He was wrong there, though, as Nicholson had taken 50-1 against Anzum earlier in the week. "He's a tough horse who was third in the Tri-umph here and then second in this two years ago," he said. "He hasn't the best of legs and the staff have done a great job."

There had been a similar instance

of success being out of the fire in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, though in the case of Katarino the punters felt only gratitude to Mick Fitzgerald. The 11-4 favourite never travelled with any comfort off a ferocious gallop, but buoyant jumping kept his cause alive and he sprang past Balla Sola at the last and bounded eight lengths clear.

"He was always in top gear but he's tough," Nicky Henderson, his trainer, said. "He has already run in a steeplechase in France and isn't the sort of Flat horse you usually get in this race, but his jumping got him there. We may take him back to his native country for the four-year-old championship in June."

Another new star emerged from the hunting field when Castle Mane tore up the hill for an impressive success in the Christies Foxhunter Chase—earning inevitable comparisons with the former stablemate. whose star frezled out so wanly yesterday."He has to be as good as Teeton Mill was last year," Caroline Bailey, his trainer, said.



Katarino, left, delivers a decisive challenge to Balla Sola in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

3.50 Misconduct

2.20 Connel's Croft 2.50 Knock Leader

4.20 Mr Dick

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 LUCY TUFTY. Carl Evans: 4.20 Mr Dick.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 FAKENHAM CAR CENTRE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,815: 2m) (8-runners)

A typically teaching Fabraham seller, it would be rash to discuss the Great Flood, whose third to believe over course and distance surface in the season gives him a sound chance despite his big weight. Lovy Trofty is another to well serious consideration on the second to firver Frontier over course and distance, respeciable form at this level. However, slight preference is for CONNEL'S CITYLT, who servered to simplify to stay over 2 and if when howith to filter in a competitive seller at Cartorick less time. This photes tip may table. Blooth be a benginy sharence to overcome, while Among Islands and Aldar have been well beaten like turn. Court Joker is a better prospect but an authorized when.

2.50 EDP CHAMPION FOR NEWS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,456: 3m 110yd) (8 runners) 201 5-513U HARDING 14 (S) (S Tindall) S Meffor 8-11-8 C. Whole Selling School S

1998: BROADWATER BOY 18-11-5 R Garley (10-11 ter) 14 Hamraood 5 ran

KNOCK LEADER, was no major for the useful House Capitaling in the compact of the

3.20 GRAHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,282: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners) BETTINGS: 2-1 Yankie Lord, 5-2 Danger Flynn, 5-1 Nosam, 7-1 Pro Bono, Wildopers Delight, 8-1 Sister Rosau, 50-1 April Brisce, Epolo De La Romos.

1998: BASSENHALLY 8-11-4 W Marston (9-1) Mrs P Sty 9 nm

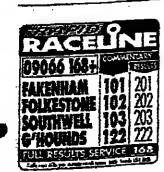
Pro Bono ruos well here and can again be expected to put up a bold chow. Design Flynn has also won at the back, but his success was handed to biter on a piale with the test-high departure of Salmon Breeze. More interesting is YANEEL LORB, who weakened when ascound to Smarty over three miles at Huntington test time. The return to a shorter timp can help hain regain without the Nosam is consistent attinuigh his jumpling is not always as fluent as it might be. Whippers Designit, not especially consistent, is preferred to the out of form Sister Rosza.

3.50 TOTE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (95,280; 2m) (9 numers)

88 SETTING: 9-4 Efformatica, 9-2 sed The Point, 5-1 Prosince, 13-2 Maignete, 8-1 Efformatic, Cardiony Candia, 10-1 Autograph Figure 14-1 others.

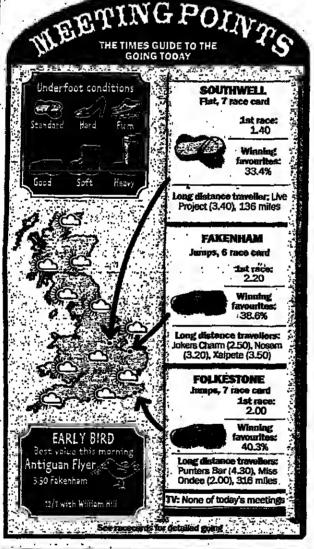
1998: ANTIGUAN FLYSH 6-10-3 Wiches Brennan (11-2) 6 productou 8 rat

Province did favourits backers is favour at Sandown less studied by the despite hanging violently under his analism rider in the closing slopes. He can be assumed of stronger handling there are many a race lacking much strength, should give another good account despite having to carry in excess of 12st. The case in heat though, boots the progressive histochild. A winner three times on the First set summer, she has flowered over britter in lecent weeks— wharing with any amount in head of followings and then Dates at home efforts have not gone unsolded by the handleapor hat head at followings and having run prouts in his previous two starts, books up against it under save at towards eight days and, having run prouts in his previous two starts, books up against it under save at towards the save and handle save not gone and the save and the part and is sively to make a good account it fully wound up after an absence of two save or or in the part and is after to make a good account it fully wound up after an absence of two save or or in the part and is after to make a good account it fully wound up after an absence of two save or or a the part and is after to make a good account it fully wound up after an absence of two save or or a the part and save after a destine for any or and the best when forcing the pace. Preference is the terme, which were that save the save and was be savied by the drying ground.



FAKENHAM SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS: S Gollings, 4 winners from 12 namers, 33.3%; D Sherwood, 3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs D Haine, 7 from 28, 25.0%; Mrs P Sty, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Only qualifiers. JOCKEYS: R Ferrant, 4 winners from 14 rides, 26 6%; Michael Bremmn, 5 from 21, 23.8%; JA McCharley, 4 from 18, 22.2%; G Bradley, 3 from 24, 12.5%; O Gallagher, 3 from 25, 12.0%.



GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101.113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,5) (Mrs O Robinson) 8 Half 12-0 8 West (7) 88

Received number. Sh. figure form (F—felt. P—pulled up. U—unskaled rider. B—brought clown. 3—ethoped up. R—refused D—claquelified). Hose's name hope since lest outlog; Fit lat. B—binters. V—visor. H—hood. B—Eyeshield. C—courte winner. D—distance winner.

4.20 WILLIAM BULWER-LONG MEMORIAL NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£2,023: 2m 5f 110yd) (14 runners)



1988: STONEY VALLEY 6-11-9 Mr M Singes (4-1) 6 Dowling 12 rao

In a race that makes limited appeal as a betting medium it may prove safest to side with MR DICK. He has test to do than when he list not under Rutes, at Author less that the health of the health of

4.50 EDP CHAMPION FOR SPORT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS MAIDEN HURDLE (\$2,214: 2m) (11 runners)



. 1999: ASSALABLE 4-11-0 Mediad Bronnan (2-5 lad) N Callaghan 14 ran

This holes a good opportunity for HURRICANE LANE to get her head in front. The seven-year-old has shown enough ability to win a race of this return and will be hard to heal if abile to replicate her effort at Warwick in November when a staying on thurd to Cashaplenty. Tangshan, fair on the Flat as a time-year-old with Michael Shous, may prove the biggest danger. Semesthy a transfurner, he was not given a tard time when soil to Missconduct — having been held op — at Catarrick last lines. Peter Perfect can be secused his debut effod (sadde slipped) and showed some ability when this his a selfie at Doncasier, keeping on, last month. Safer Butt made his debut at heavy ground at Kangdon and choice be better from his modest effort there suggested but Bustod Flat and Velvet Jones have shown on sign of ability, Jamponic Denoter is another with Fills to recommend term. Our Flagley, who can fill be no on he Flat in his active New Zealand, was sent of 166-1 on his British debut at Fortwell and mode little impression. Able Lass, who makes his debut over timber, can beast only poor Flat form.

FOLKESTONE.

2.00 Inclination. 2.30 Montroe. 3.00 PALATIAL. (nap), 3.30 Buckland Lad. 4.00 Sorbiere, 4,30 Secret Bid. 5.00 Gunnerbe Posh.

GDING: GOOD TO SOFT (GODD IN PLACES)

2.00 HOSPICE ON THE HILL MARES ONLY CLAIM-ING HURDLE (£1,784: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

2.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HOVICES CHASE (£3,948: 3m 2f) (6)

11-10 Woodands Been, T-4 Montroe, 6-1 Royal Raven, 10-1 Up The Country, 18-1 Com Exchange, 25-1 Edge Ahead

 3.00° hospice on the Hill novices hurdle (£2,488: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)

7-4 Pietro Bernbo, 9-4 Patotal, 11-4 Edwards, 16-1 Lightening Star, 12-1 Polish Lagron, 25-1 Ross Town, 33-1 Mr Wild, 50-1 others

3.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,523: 2m) (B)

6-4 Buckland Lad, 2-1 Feners, 4-1 Cooleen Helo, 6-1 Gipsy Gent, 20-1 Denicheur, 66-1 Upward Sauge.

4.00 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,815: 2m 6i 110yd) (10)

7-2 Ments Soltam, 5-1 Militeratur, 11-2 Double Solta, 6-1 Sorblere, 7-1 Amss Solt II, 6-1 Fountain Bld, Salamme, 10-1 others.

4.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,469: 3m 2f) (12)

11 33P5 POLO PONY 28 (B.F.S.S) J lbsoo 7-10-0 J Sopple 1
12 -P3P BUBBLES GALORE 30 1 D Micrafley 8-10-0 D Berrows (5) 11-4 Total Joy, 5-1 Secret Bid, 11-2 Blazing Storm, 7-1 Charch Law, Punters Bar, Polo Pony, 10-1 Fortunes Course, 14-1 others,

5.00 H.B.L.B. HOSPICE ON THE HILL MAIDEN NA-TIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,578: 2m 11 110yd) (13)

7-4 Gumente Posto, 5-2 King of The Castle, 9-2 Brockson Gles, 8-1 foreo, 10-1 Pembroke Square, 20-1 El Manny, Pearly Prince, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS, C. Egucion, 3 minores from 10 natures, 30,0%; Mrs O Haine, 5 from 18, 27,8%; G. McCourt, 3 from 13, 23,1%; M. Fige, 7 from 32, 21,9%, 1 McGourin, 4 from 20, 20,0%; D. Gressell, 11 from 63, 17,5%. JOCKEYS X Acours, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42 9%, M Williamson, 14 learn 49, 28,6%, A McCoy, 9 from 52, 17,3%, R Dunecody, 6 learn 39, 15 4%, R Thomasa, 4 from 27, 14,8%, P Hide, 7 from 58, 12,1%, Only qualifiers.

SOUTHWELL

1.40 Lady Rachel, 2.10 May King Mayhem, 2.40 Anonym. 3.10 Sea-Belle, 3.40 Cool Secret. 4.10 Rich Ballerina, 4,40 Cantgetyourbreath.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.40 ZEUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Div I; £1,612: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1 1125 MOONRAKING 21 (8,CD) Mes S Wilton 6-9-12

2.10 ZEUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Div II: £1,612: 1m 4f) (9)

(UN II: 1, 1012. Iffil 41) (9)

1 1-34 JOHNNE THE JORER 11 (B,CD,G) J Leigh 8-9-10

2 -051 RIVER CAPTAIN 11 (CD) D Minray Sman 6-9-8 (60) P Gonde 8

3 -331 WESTERN COMMAND 9 (G) M Prescott 3-8-10 (60)

8 - fit2Patrick, 2

4 5/90 SAFECRACKER 223 (B,F) T Ethesington 6-8-6 P Bradley (3) 1

5 031- MAY KINS MAYNEM 105 (B,O,G) Mars a King 6-8-7 A Nichnik 5

6 -053 KAPRINSKA 11 (C,F,G,S) M Chapman 9-8-0 - S Righton (3) 3

7 -305 APPYARD 16 N Quant 4-7-3 ... Emily Joyce (5) 9

6 2305 DOUBLE ECHO 9 (CD,F,B,S) J Befielt 11-7-10 L Guester (7) 8

9 0000 COPPER DOUBLE 98 M Polysiase 47-10 Coopen (3) 4

2-1 Western Command, 3-1 River Contain, 6-1 Karinska, 13-2 Johnste The John, 8-1 May King Marthem, Double Echo, 16-1 Appyabo, 20-1 official.

2.40 HERA CLAIMING STAKES(£2,194: 1m) (14)

1 0-00 DOMMID RLYER 32 (CD,G,S) Mrt. A Swinpank 6-9-12 G Duffield 12 G Duffield 13 Z Duffield 14 G Duffield 14 G Duffield 14 G Duffield 14 G Duffield 15 G Duffield 15 G Duffield 16 G Duffield 17 G Duffield 16 G Duffield 17 G Duffield 17 G Duffield 18 G D

11 0-00 PWE RIDGE LAD 11 (CD.F.G) JL Henris 9-9-5 S Sindton (7) 2 12 0-62 EASTLEIGH 42 (C.D.S) R Hollinchead 10-9-4 A Cellane 4 13 000/ KND PRINCE 17 JR Window 7-9-4 Dean McKenwer 6 14 10-5 Windows 14 17 Starre 8-9-4 6 Wiebster 1 JL Kitarre 8 0.2 Dean McKenwer 6 1 Kitarre 8 0.2 Dean McKenwer 6 1 Kitarre 8 0.2 Dean McKenwer 6 1 Kitarre 8 0.2 Dean McKenwer 1 JC K 4-1 Kittarney Juzz 9-2 Brandon Majok, 6-1 Brockme Liste, 7-1 Kingotsu Boy, Moving Princess, 8-1 Asionym, 10-1 Amesoma Verture, Eastfelgh, 14-1 Others.

3.10 APOLLO MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £2.057: 6f) (8)

8-11 See-Bedo, 6-1 Dovedon Times, So Willing, 7-1 Tancred Arms, 16-1 Slightly Dusty, 16-1 Prince Of Aragon, 33-1 others.

3.40 NEPTUNE HANDICAP (£6,215: 7f) (9) 3-1 Cout Secret, 7-2 Adelpha Boy, 4-1 Sharp Scotch, 7-1 Live Project, 8-1 As-rac, Woodshiff, 14-1 Terlam, Dankidys, 20-1 Walland Kniehl.

4.10 APHRODITE SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: £1,814: 71) (B)

9-4 Rich Ballerura, 5-2 Keen Hando, 9-2 Weel U There, 6-1 E 6 Peorl, 8-1 Lady Caroline, 12-1 Sonley Solane, 20-1 Pasha, 33-1 Netherhall.

4.40 ACHILLES HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,631: 6f) (10) 7 ODB- MRLADY LILLE 248 K Inory 8-4 Marin Dayse 1 6 D271 SOURDS LUCKY 13 (D) N Littmechn 8-2 J Tone 6 9 G6-2 MUDDY WATER 65 D Maris 7-12 J Ouinn 8 1D ODB- RCCH DOMINION 143 J Behlel 7-10 J L Channock 3 3-1 Ashover Amber, 7-2 beth Oleam, 5-1 Sounds Lucky, 6-1 Polly Mills, 8-1 Modity Waller, 10-1 Red Charger, Cardgetyourbresh, 14-1 piless.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS, Miss S Haft, 5 winners from 9 nomes, 55.6%, Se M Prescot, 27 hom 66, 31.4%; Mess S Wilton, 12 hom 43, 27 9%, K Bell, 3 hom 11, 27.3%, O Canoll, 5 hom 25, 20.0%; M Johnston, 43 hom 222, 19.4%. JOCKEYS, R. FilePatick, 9 winners from 32 rates, 28.1%, N. Day, 8 from 38, 21.1%, Kimberley Hart, 11 from 55, 20.0%, D. Haltand, 23 horn 118, 16.5%; J. Weaver, 37 from 231 18.0%; M. Jebbett, 12 from 80, 15.0%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 2.00 Silvery.

YESTERDAY'S **RESULTS**

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft (good in places)
2.00 (2m ii hdle) 1, KATARINO (M A Fiz-peraid, 11-4 favi. 2, Balla Sole (R Welsh, 16-1), 3, Afarrad (C F Suan, 8-1), 4, Dan-gerus Pracedent (N Wilsamson, 9-1) ALSO RAN: 8 Knile Edge, Simply Giffed, Ballyscyos (5th), Frazen Groom, Scarled Properael (6th), 25 Nuvellino, 28 Miss Qiri John, 40 Complete Forger, 85 Miss Cor-

Cest 5203 30 2.35 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. ANZUM (R John 50n, 40-1], 2. Le Coudray (C F Swan, 2-g-lay), 3. Lady Rebocce (N WSiamson 3-11 ALSO RAN 2-1 g-lay Dearro's Beend 16 Go-Intomal, 25 Salie's Cet (4th), 33 Ju; 3.15 (sm 2) 110yd ch) 1, SEE MORE BUSS.
NESS (M A Ricgerald 16-1) 2 Go Ballistic
IA Dobon, 66-11 3 Flookid Pean (P Durwoody, 5-2 tast, ALSO RAN 7-2 Teeton Mil 11-2 Docare Profe, 9 Docarie Trafes Pair Escarefigue, 14 Suny Bay, Unsantalole Bover, 20 Surply Dashing (6th, 50 Senv El Betuin, 66 Addington Boy (5th, 12 ran Ni Impenal Call, 11, 17t, 14t, 3/4, 12t P Nicholis al Step-ton Matter, Tote, 514-40, 52-90, 53-90, 52-90 DF 52-18 CO Tribecta \$4,003-90 CSP 0559-57 Tribecta \$2,165-34

Placepot £179.90. Quadpot £54.80.

Hexham

Going: soft (heavy in places) 2.25 (2m 110yd old) 1. Charmwood Jack (B. Harding, 4-5 (av), 2. Turksh Tower (11-4), 3. Howydudoing (6-1), 6 ran, 3:1, 2, M Tod-hunter, 10(e, 5:180, 5:1-40, 5:180, DF £2.50 CSF £3.49. CSF 23 49 3.00 (3m hole) 1, Quick March (N Hor-locks, 1-4 tav), 2, Hirt Lodge (14-1); 3, An saig (12-1), 7 ran 7, 26 E Weymas, Tote E1 30, £1.20, £1 60 DF £3 10 CSF £5 24 ET 30, ET 20, ET 60 UP ET 310 CSF* 16: 34 3.45 (4m ch) 1, Plink Gin (R Widneson, 7-1), 2, Cachiton (10-1), 3, Kibby Bank (9-1) 5 wardscier 5-4 (4m. 8 ran. 14), 13, M Meach et Tote ET 50, E2,00, E460, E1,70 DF 640 70, CSF 267 38 Turass £569,20 4.15 (2m hdte) 1. Double Buck (0 O'Solivan, 10-1), 2. Apollo's Deughter 14-1), 3. Madge McSplash (11-8 fax), 5 ran 114, 3. W Kemp Tote £1480 £280, £2.10 DF \$35.20. CSF £42.45 \$35.20. CSF \$42.45
4.50 (2m 41 10 yd ch) 1. Dooks Delight (A S Smith. 14-1), 2. Santa Jet levens lav), 3. Patons: Fame (7-1), 10 ran NR. Carley Lad. Cultane Lako 11, 334 R Febrey Tote \$30.60, \$3.50, \$51.10, \$22.40, \$DF \$215.20 CSF, \$226.92, \$Totast \$51.37, \$41.40, \$41.4 525 (3m hdie) 1, Zemhareer (N Hohocks, 4-11, 2, Five Flago (4-1); 3, D'Arbiay Street (5-1) 6 ran 14, 241 R Ford, Tote, 54 fb 52,30, 64 00, DF £10.20 CSF £19 17

Placepot: £59.00. Quadpot: £35.70. Lingfield Park

Going: standard
1.50 (1m) 1. Statistician (Mr A Evans, 11-4
bat), 2, Dark Menace (10-1), 3, Karil (12-1)
12 ran 14, Ind John Berry Tote: £4 40;
£2 10, £4 60, £3 10 DF £6 50, CS5
C35.38 Tricast, £296 63
2.20 (71) 1. Anolatio (Dean Mckeown, 9-2),
2, Speedy Classa, £9-4 fav), 3, Best Quest
(9-1) 13 can 14, 91 Mts N Macauley Tote,
£5 50, £2.40, £1 10, £2 10 DF: £7.10, CSF:
£14 00

214-00 2.55 (6): 1. Palacegate Touch (P Bradley 5-2): 2. Krystal Max (evers lavi: 3. Musisaw-war (16-1): 8 ran 11. 114 J Berry Tote: 94 10. C1 60, £1 00, £3.10. DF £2.20 CSF: £5.21 3.30 (5) 1. Tear White (T Quart, 3-1); 2, Friendly Brave (6-1), 3, Socked (7-4 tay) 9 ran, 1%, nk, T Mals, Tore, Ed 30; 12-40, 51.80, 51.70 DF, £15.90 CSF, £23.09 Thoast: £40.03

cast: £40.03 4.10 (Im 2); 1, Scraggys Dream (R Co-chane, 94 lav); 2, Thelayadi (5-2); 3, 67 Chi Saga (8-11 12) an 1/2, 31, P Michell Iole £2 80, £1 60, £1 70, £1 60, DF £5.70 CSF £9 06 Incast £43 16 4.40 (1m 4l) 1, Bartbury (J Golobed 5-2) 2, Space Race (11-4), 3, Sheer Native 75-4 tav), 4 ran, NR Martha Reuly 3l, 11 J C Do-yer Tote, D4.40 DF E7.00 CSF 58.72.

S.15 (1m) 1, Walkid Beach At 8 Hich-cott, 12-11, 2, Denbras (7-2) 3, Melomana (12-1) Gaoge (4m) 5-2 tay 12 tan 5, 8 (G L Moore, Tole, 21) 80 62 90, 61, 20, 05 50 DF 212.00 CSF 251, 25 Tricas, E501, 86 Piscopot: £43.30. Quadoct: £6.60.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: XAIPETE

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Scotland turn to Hutchison in gamble for goals

SCOTLAND'S search for a Gary McAllister, returns to goalscorer has earned Don the international stage after Hutchison, of Everton, a place in the squad for the European championship qualifying games with Bosnia Herzegovina and the Czech Republic later this month. Hutchison, 27, seems cer-

tain to make his international debut in one of the two games. to be played in Glasgow on March 27 and 31. his call-up by Craig Brown, the national coach, coming as a reward for his form this season at Goodison Park, where he has been press-ganged into filling a

striker's role. Goals are as scarce for Everton, the FA Carling Premiership's lowest scorers, as Scotland and Brown has been stripped of the three forwards who played in the World Cup in France, Kevin Gallacher, Gordon Durie and Darren Jackson's have all finished the season early because of injuries. The casualty list extends to central defence, where Colin Hendry, of Rangers, is una-vailable, prompting the introduction of Paul Ritchie, of Heart of Midlothian

Intriguingly, Hendry's predcessor as nacional captain.



knee surgery and the match with Bosnia, at Ibrox Stadium, will be his first for Scotland since November 1997, when he played against France in St However, it is the problem

of overcoming the severe goal shortage — just five in the three games so far, against the lightweights of Lithuania, Estonia and the Faroe Islands

"We are badly off for strik-ers." he said yesterday. "It is alarming to have no one who is recognised in that position, because in home games, you need goals. You cannot sit back. It's made worse by the fact that the only one we have left to call on, Billy Dodds, has to miss the Bosnia game through suspension."

Brown has watched Hutchison recently and obtained good reports from Pre-miership managers, apart from Walter Smith at Everton. "Don is not prolific," Brown, said, "He is more of a provider, but hopefully he can do the job for us.

Hutchison made one appearance for the Scotland B team



in Wales four years ago while he was at Liverpool, but his career hit a nadir at Anfield before he moved on to West Ham United and Sheffield United and then, last season,

"I will be looking for goals from our midfield. Craig Burley and David Hopkin have done it for us before, while Eoin Jess has scored 13 for Aberdeen this season from just behind the attack," Smith said.

That plea to the playmakers may help to inspire McAllister on his return at the age of 34. Before the cruciate ligament injury that kept him out of the World Cup, some supporters were demanding that he be pensioned off.

"McAllister is there on merit, not sentiment," Brown said. "I have seen him twice for Coventry recently and he has been outstanding. Real football peo-ple appreciate McAllister. If he had been English, Howard Wilkinson would have had him in the team against France recently, so highly does he think of Gary.

"I never wrote him off after his injury but I was afraid he might not he able to attain the level of fitness required. But I would love to see him at Euro 2000 to make up for missing

the World Cup.."
As expected, Andy Goram did not receive the call even though Brown has picked four goalkeepers.

These are two important games for us, especially the Czech one, and it was in the interests of Andy, and the squad, that they stayed focused on football," Brown said.

COURAIT, DOWN SAID.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: D Denglas (Dundee), J Gould (Celic), A Main (St Johnston), N Suthwan (Wimbledon), T Boyd (Celic), C Devideon (Blackburn Rovers), M Elliott (Lecester City), P Bitchie (Henris), D Wing (Everdeen), C Burley (Celic), I Durrant (Ghrainock, B Fenguson (Pangers), O Hopkin (Lecis Litch, A Johnston (Sunderland), P Lambert (Celic), O MacNister (Coventy Cay), J McNantern (Cenc), 2 Dodds (Dundee Litch, O Hatchison (Everdee), E Jees



Keane, top, towers above Scholes, the goalscorer, as Manchester United players celebrate the late strike that secured a 1-1 draw in the San Siro stadium

United benefit from bitter experience

THERE WAS a sense about Alex Ferguson on Wednesday night that his team had completed the hard part, that if the European Cup was an obstacle course then Manchester United had just scaled the giant wall.

The presence in the semi-final draw this afternoon of Dynamo Kiev, Bayern Munich and Juventus - three giants of the game in any generation would suggest quite the opposite, but one knew exactly what the United manager meant. In knocking out the mighty Internazionale, his young team had slayed the ogre in their own. minds. They had proved to Europe, but most importantly to themselves, that an English team could overcome an Italian one. "You trust the players," the United manager said, "and perhaps

now they trust themselves." United had never before knocked a side from Serie A out of Europe, Indeed, on six previous visits to the country, they had returned as losers every time and there were times at a raucous, rowdy San Siro when it seemed that the Italian grip might throttle them once more.

As Zanetti hit the post and the ear drums were assaulted by a succession of screams for a penalty, United must have gone through the concerns that FROM MATT DICKINSON IN MILAN

had cost them so dearly in the two years before, when against Borussia Dortmund and then AS Monaco, they had been knocked out by teams of greater belief rather than ability. They were novices stuttering along in a new

Now their eloquence is admired throughout the Continent and, while they can be a little loose-tongued as they toy with disaster, they have a sense of confidence and certainty in their work that is the benefit of years of experience, as they proved in the I-I sec-ond leg draw. While the arrival of Dwight Yorke and Jaap Stam has improved the side, just as vital is that the likes of David Beckham, Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs have now played at least 30 matches in this competition.

One could argue that it has taken them a long time for them to learn their lessons, but at least they have learnt. them well. "We have learnt from previous years," Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, said. "The way we went out against Dortmund and Monaco was down to our own mistakes. We can look back and say that was definitely not the way to do it. Now if the opposition are going to score, they have to

do something special to beat us. Every area of the pitch is covered by a highclass player so we are reaching the point where we are there."

They have grown to cope with everything that can be thrown at them even when it includes, as it did at the San Siro, a supermarket load of citrus fruit. Oranges were pelted at them before, during and after the game, and there was also some predictable hurling of bodies from the Italian side. Not surprisingly. Ferguson thought the French referee was wonderful as he ig-nored Schmeichel's collision with

"We knew they would intimidate us and try to get us sent off," Roy Keane, the United midfield player, said, "but you saw when one of their players struck Becks in the face with a ball how we have come through the learning process. It is hard to take, but Becks just walked away." Their composure was to be admired, but equally daunting tests await in the semi-finals when United supporters may find themselves in the unusual position of praying to be paired with Juventus.

Beaten three times out of four by Juventus in the past three seasons,

United are now far from fearful of facing a side that has stumbled through the competition, shedding its coach. Marcello Lippi, on the way. Only an 85th minute equaliser against Olympiakos in Athens on Wednesday ensured their passage through, and even a team containing Zidane, Deschamps, Davids and Inzaghi appears out of

Bayern Munich's 6-0 rout of Kaiserslautern over two legs would suggest that they are to be avoided, but United know that they can match the Germans. They drew twice against them in the group phase and only a last-minute rush of blood by Schmeichel cost them victory in Germany. Which leaves Kiev, a technically won-

derful side whose 2-0 victory over Real Madrid on Wednesday proved once again the threat of Schevchenko, possibly the most feared striker in the world, given that Ronaldo is a shadow of himself at present. He may need an operation on his aching knees, but there are rumours in Milan that doctors are not queuing up to operate on him because of the terrible responsibility. It is a horrifying situation for a 22-year-old of such breathtaking talent, but United could be forgiven this week for not giv-ing the Brazilian a second thought.

safety of players

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, players — Barry Quinn and Barry Ferguson, both Irish, and Tynan Scope, an Australian goalkeeper — who have been picked for the Fifa Under-20 world championship in Nigeria that begins in a fortnight. Strachan, worried about possible terrorist attacks, said: "If my son had been picked. I would hope I could change his mind. Sometimes it is braver to be a

■ Derby County have turned down a £4 million bid from Blackburn Rovers for Lee Carsley, the midfield player. Blackburn, who are eager to add to their midfield resources before the transfer deadline, are expected to make one more offer for Carsley. although Derby's £5.5m valuation could prevent any deal going ahead.

■ Keith O'Neill completed a 6700,000 move from Norwich City to Middlesbrough last night and goes straight into the squad at Nottingham Forest tomorrow. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Ronnie Ekelund wants to return to Southampton. The 25-year-old Denmark international, who scored five goals in 17 league appearances for Southampton after moving from Barcelona on loan in 1995, is now with OB Odense, of the second division in

may hold an inquiry into the FA Youth Cup tie between Arsenal and Crystal Palace on Wednesday, in which five players were sent off and a

manager, said: "He's strong and quick and, given a good run, I believe he will develop into an excellent player for

Darren Eadie, Norwich City's former England Under-2l winger, is likely to be out for the rest of the season after undergoing an operation on Wednesday to cure a knee problem. Eadie, 23, valued at £5 million, had hoped to be back in action by the end of the

■ The Football Association mass brawl took place. Arsenal won the match I-0.

FEW players, even in their mother tongue, can keep an audience of journalists hanging on their every word for the best part of half an hour. David Ginola can do it in a

foreign language. Yesterday, media day at the Tottenham Hotspur training ground ahead of the Worthing-ton Cup final against Leicester City on Sunday, the mercurial Frenchman, looking every inch the contented, relaxed footballer, held court.

He talked about everything: his goal against Barnsley, his past, his future, life under George Graham and the final, Tottenham's first Wembley final appearance for eight

"There are moments you treasure for the rest of your career, moments that don't come along often even if you play for 30 years," Ginola said. "After scoring against Barnsley, I knew I had done something unusual. You don't often see a player pick up the ball on the halfway line and dribble past four opponents. I would be pleased if I saw kids trying the same thing."

Ginola rarely takes the credit for anything alone, always paying cribute to his colleagues. Yet his belief in his

BY ANDREW WARSHAW AND CHRIS MOORE

ability is abundantly clear. "It was a horrible pitch at Barnsley and a horrible crowd. would be Tottenham and I will ley and a horrible crowd. What I did shows that f don't have to play on a beautiful surface or in front of my own fans to do the same thing. I'm not saying I can do it again on Sunday, especially if there are a couple of players permanently on my back. But if the team

Ginola is particularly proud of having convinced the sceptics that he could work for one of the game's renowned disci-

win I-O and gets into Europe, l'll be happy."

plinarians and, before Gra-ham's arrival, that he could play in an unsuccessful side. "I have proved I can work

with anyone," he said. "I think I have also proved that, even in a bad situation like last season, I could be positive, that I could cope with playing in a struggling side. I knew when I signed that we were not at the same level as Arsenal or Manchester United, but I always believed I would be successful

Spurs fans will be delighted to know that when his contract terminates in two years' time. staying at White Hart Lane is his priority. "I'm sure there



be making that known." Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, fears the threat. of Ginola. He believes that the Spurs winger has been motivated back to his best form after being left out of the France squad that lifted the World Cup last summer.

When you are looking for 22 Frenchmen, I can't believe that Ginola was not in their World Cup squad," O'Neill



said. "There's no question they had an outstanding group of super-talented players. But I can't understand how Bernard Diomeda, for example, was preferred ahead of him."

O'Neill worked alongside Ginola as a television pundit during France 98 and recognised his hurt. "He kept a stiff upper lip," O'Neill said. "But I got very close to him and could sense how sad and downheart-

ed he really was."

O'Neill is still agonising over whether to man-mark Ginola on Sunday. Two years ago, when Leicester won the competition by beating Middlesbrough in a replayed final, O'Neill used Pontus Kaamark, his Sweden international, to shadow successfully Jun-

inho in both matches. "Juninho was playing brilliantly at the time and I'm not surprised people are making comparisons with Ginota," O'Neill said. "But the two of them play in different posi-tions and I'm not so sure it's so straightforward to man-mark Ginola, especially when he's flitting from one side of the field to the other.

"In any case, the way he's playing. I think he's clever enough to wangle his way out of any situation."

Strachan fears for | Ginola savours special moment | Taunton cling to glimmer of hope

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

TAUNTON TOWN know first leg, which meant I had II they must throw caution to the wind to overcome the 3-0 deficit from the first leg of the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-final before an all-ticket crowd at Tiverton Town tomorrow.

The stunning defeat inflict-ed by the Vase holders rocked a side that had twice beaten their rivals in Screwlix Direct League matches this season while sprinting clear at the top in a 25-match unbeaten

run.
"We've left ourselves a mountain to climb but we won't give up hope as an early goal could be vital," Russell Musker, the Taunton manager, said. "Scoring isn't usually a problem for us. Indeed, last Saturday was only the second time in more than 40 matches this season in which we have failed to score."

Martyn Rogers, the Tiver-ton manager, felt his team profited from going into the first match as underdogs. The lads had taken a bit of flack following the league re-sult a few weeks ago," he said. "As a result they were motivated and raring to go for the

players operating very close to their full potential. There is no way we're going to sit back so. we'll approach the match in the same manner as we approached the first. If we do score, we'll have a great opportunity to kill it off."

If Taunton feel they have a glimmer of hope, Thame United must be ready to bow to the inevitable when they take on Bedlington Terriers at Windmill Road.

A hat-trick by John Milner and two goals by Richie Bond, a substitute, gave the Arnott Insurance Northern League side a 5-0 win in the home leg and Keith Perry, the Bedlington manager, was surely guilty of understatement when he said: "We are in the driving seat."
The £20,000 guaranteed to

semi-finalists in the FAW Premier Cup eluded Merthyr Tydfil under Rober Gibbins, their new manager, when they lost I-0 at Barry Town on Tuesday night. Barry meet in-ter CableTei and Wrenham play Cardiff City in the two-legged semi-finals.

SNOW REPORTS

CLUB Austria Kitzbühel Obergurgi Söli St Anton France France
Alpe d'Huer
Argentiere
Avoriaz
Flaina
La Clussaz
La Plagne
La Tania Les Arcs Megeve Méribel Tignes Val Thorens Swiftzerland
Crans Montana 50 290 Good Hard Varied Fair African Sun 0 Synden Wasied Sun 0 Synden Wasied Sun 0 Synden Wasied Sun 0 Synden Sun 120 Good Hard Varied Pine 2 Synden Sun 1 Syllars Sun 2 Synden Sun 1 Synden Sun 1 Syllars Sun 1 Synden Sun 1 Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Sun 2 Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Sun 2 Syllars Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Sun 2 Syllars Syllars Sun 1 Syllars Syl

RUGBY LEAGUE

Monie builds up the pressure on Rhinos

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE is little love lost between Leeds Rhinos and Wigan Warriors. John Monie, the Wigan coach, stoked the fires ahead of their second meeting in five weeks — at Headingley tonight — when he said how he was sick of reading how good Leeds are. "We beat them last time to win the

league and we deserved to," Monie said. "All I ever see when I pick up a paper is Leeds, but they still haven't won anything. We'll be doing our utmost to see they don't win the Super League and Bradford will be doing their best to make sure they don't win the Challenge Cup."

As if the rivalry between them was not intense enough, Monie admitted that "there is a lot of feuding building up" - a reference, among other things, to the recent bitter exchange of words between Peter Norbury, the Wigan chairman, and Gary Hetherington, the Leeds chief executive, about allegations that Wigan

tried to unsettle Terry Newton, who the Rhinos have switched from hooker in a re-shuffled second row. Even though their semi-final with Bradford on Sunday week has dictated the decision not to risk Adrian Morley, Richie Blackmore and Marcus St Hilaire, there is every incentive for a supposedly weakened side to re-peat their 28-18 cup defeat of Wigan.

Leeds will also be without Anthony Farrell, their most impressive peformer that day, who also hopes to have recovered from a hamstring injury for the Bradford match. The semi-final could do more than anything to take

the Rhinos' eye off the ball for the first of three league meetings with Wigan.
Simon Haughton is expected to
recover from a hamstring injury for inclusion on the Wigan bench, but Rob Ball stands by. Otherwise, Monie retains the starting side that demolished Hull Sharks in their

HOCKEY

break games

PREMIER division clubs in the men's National League face a testing weekend with a double programme that could rearrange the top four po-sitions (Sydney Friskin writes).

Cannock, Southgate and Reading could well finish in that order, but fourth-placed Canterbury are experiencing problems. Beeston, only five points behind, are too close for com-fort and the teams meet on Sunday with Beeston the hosts. If Canterbury lose, they will struggle to reach the play-offs to decide the champion-

ship, with only one game remaining. Reading, who visit Guildford to morrow and play Bournville at home on Sunday, will field the same side that defeated Old Loughtonians 7-3 last week. Southgate can expect stern opposition from Teddington. but on Sunday they will visit strug-gling Hounslow. The bottom two teams, East Grinstead and Brooklands, play each other on Sunday.

BOWLS

Top five clubs | Passionate Scots take title face make or with win over auld enemy

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

SCOTLAND'S women bowlers completed a remarkable sequence of suc-cess when they defeated England IIO-IO6 to retain the British team title in Belfast yesterday.

At Bournemouth, less than a week

ago, Scotland's men won four out of the five British titles as well as the title that did not go Scotland's way in Belfast was the singles - in which they were not represented. of The Flower of Scotland could be

heard from the spectators' gallery as the Scots capered and cavorted their way to the title. Skill-wise, there was little between the sides, but Scotland played with more jole de vivre. Passion tri-

team championship, and the only No wonder that the stirring strains

umphed over precision as the energetic Scottish skips attacked heads and

converted unpromising situations. The result was in doubt, however, right up until the last bowl as Eng-

land, who led briefly at the three-quarter stage, closed to within three shots after 125 of the 126 ends.

snots after 120 of the 120 enos.

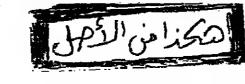
Jayne Roylance won 32-14 and Beryl Alderson scored a last-end five to win 20-19, but Edna Bessell narrowly failed to collect the four shots that England needed to snatch the Clara Johns Trophy from Scotland's grasp.

The England team, which included nine newcomers, were disappointed. but at least Helen Walker, who was recalled by the selectors this year but went unrecognised by her team-mates when she arrived in Belfast. wore a broad smile. A former chocolate-taster from

York, she has lost 12vist since she made her international debut three years ago, when she tipped the scales at 24st 9lb.

Ireland turned on a performance worthy of St Patrick's Day—albeir a day late—and avoided the wooden spoon when they beat Wales 135-190.

comment that the same and series that the same seri Company Configurate State Section man description of the state of Many Depart that it may be different from although Britis Co Dill effichaut tjati point of the time enterns of the first the sections, we may been been been ween, and



Dallaglio keen to strengthen the French connection

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO and Jeremy Guscott should laglio, the England captain against France in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham tomorrow,

playing the French more than once a season, while Guscott, despite nine previous appearances against them, has yet to come to terms with the quality of their back play.

Fear of the unknown has emanated like steam from the England camp this week, from Clive Woodward downwards. In his first season as coach, Woodward was given his comeuppance in Paris at the start of the 1998 championship and wonders in what mood France will approach Twickenham after their defeat by

Dallaglio, acknowledging the changes forced on France by injury - the latest of them Thomas Lombard, the Stade Français wing, who gives way to Christophe (Dominici, his club colleague,



string — emphasised their strength in depth. They seem to have a conveyor belt of ballhandling forwards and backs who can run great lines with instinct and flair," Dallaglio

"Essentially, their squad is that which won two grand slams in a row. People are quick to criticise a side with those achievements behind

Giovanelli set to return for Italy

By Mark Souster

massimo giovanelli, the Italy captain, is certain today to be picked to play against Wales in Treviso tomorrow after an eight-week ban for stamping was over-turned on a technicality in

Giovanelli had been sent off at Murrayfield 13 days ago for foul play on Eric Peters, the Scotland No 8. The decision to acquit Glovanelli has incensed the Scottish Rugby Union. whose chief-executive, Bill Watson, said yesterday: We will not rest until this appalling act is justly penal-

ised for the good of the game." Giovanelli was sent off by tobert Davies, the Welsh referee, after the intervention of Paul Adams, the touch judge who spotted the offence. The player was suspended by Paul Mauriac, the match commissioner from France, at Murrayfield the same night, following Five Nations Cham-

pionship guidelines. On Wednesday, however, the ban was overturned, because the international was not part of the championship. Yet the decision was taken by a Five Nations appeals tribunal which, as far as Scotland

are concerned, was adding insult to injury. Watsoo said; We don't expect that procedural matters should override the fact that the referee and touch judge considered Mr should dismissed from the field for an act of foul play."

As discussions continued last night between the Five Nations and the Scottish and ftalian unions it was suggested that the incident might result in a criminal investigation. The Lord Advocate, Scotland's, senior law officer, has insisted repeatedly that if sporting bodies do not police themselves then the authorities will. There have been several instances of acts of foul play in both rugby and football that have led to a criminal investigation by the Proc-

Four years ago. Scott McMillan, of Preston Lodge, a lock forward, was jailed for six months after being convicted of assault on a Musselburgh prop.

The charity match in support of Disability Sport, England, due to be played at RAF Halton oo Sunday, has been switched to Tring RFC.

For others, the rarity of inter-nationals is what gives them an added zest and the Five Nations its particular quality, never more so than this season, when every match has been so hard-fought. Guscott, whose first game against France was in 1990, a time when England had established a stranglehold on the fix-ture, emphasised the pleasure he takes when the blue shirts

played only once a year. We

have a great deal to learn from this fixture. It's like the lessons

Australia have learnt from

playing New Zealand more

are in opposition. "We could go out with an idea of the French game-plan and they could play in a com-pletely different way," he said. "That's the scary thing about them, you never know what to expect. No other team in the world plays like them.

"On video, their lines of running look quite natural, but when you are in a game the ball they give has to be so full of confidence because sometimes they are passing blind. The way they attack the blind side is different. So our guys coming new to this fix-ture will have to learn about it for themselves."

ft may not be mere coincidence that England have not beaten France since the game went professional. In a sevenyear run between 1988 and 1995, Brian Moore, the hooker, made a speciality of igniting the tempers of the French with barbed comments before the game. "In a professional era, that's close to bringing the game into disrepute," Guscott said, "and when they finally did stop our winning run, it was a huge relief to them.

They have the knack of producing something unbelievable, something very special. ft's good that they do, because that is what makes them different. That's why I enjoy playing them. It's seat-of-the-pants

A capacity crowd of around 10,000 is expected for the A intries at Redruth today as the Rugby Football Union continues its policy of taking representative matches around the

The 1.30pm kick-off has allowed escorted school parties to attend and Terry Burwell, director of Twickenham Services, said: "We are reaping the benefits of a policy which invites different areas to commit themselves to marketing the game successfully, and where the game can be used as a promotional vehicle."

Samaranch enjoys Olympic high life



Samaranch displays the 1998 IOC annual report that reveals the extent of his lavish expenses; most athletes are not so fortunate, however

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has total savings of £135 million and £137,000 was spent by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on living expenses here in 1998, official accounts showed yesterday.

For the first time in six years the IOC has published its annual balance sheets, which display the wealth of the movement that ended its 108th session yesterday in apparent harmony.

Samaranch said yesterday that he was surprised at the almost unanimous vote of confidence that he had received - 86 out of the 90 ballots cast - since he had expected that there would be considerably more opposition to him staying on as president. He has spent an estimated three

months abroad on IOC business in 1998 when, like other IOC members, he received travel, hotel and meal exFROM JOHN GOODBODY IN LAUSANNE

penses and a daily allowance for outof-pocket expenses. However, his hotel suite at the luxurious Palace Hotel remains permanendy booked for his stays here in the Olympic City. In 1997 the total bill was only £600 less.

News of his lavish lifestyle depressed Audley Harrison, the Commonwealth super heavyweight boxing champion, who is £7,000 in debt but who last week turned down a professional contract worth £150,000 in the first year because of his determination to win a gold medal in Sydney.

Harrison, who is ranked No 3 in the world, spoke for many of the world's athletes yesterday. There is a huge problem between administration and competitors," he said. "Even in amateur boxing the international body has

vast amounts of money. They are creaming it off higher up."
Harrison, who received a £7,000lot-

tery grant for the Commonwealth Games last September and is waiting for it to be renewed from May I, said "A few people hold the purse strings to this vast amount of money. It is the nature of these people that they want to enjoy it for themselves."

The honorarium has just been doubled to £660 for the If members of the executive board when they attend meetings. This may last only a few days, but can be several weeks during the Games. This money is viewed as partially compensating members for loss of earnings from their jobs.

Much of the fOC's money, which is split between the Olympic Foundation.

in which there is £40 million, and its own account, where there is £95 million in savings, is advance television

payments for future games.

Dick Pound, an IOC vice-president, argued yesterday that it cannot spend the money because it "may have to be reimbursed if the Olympics are cancelled or diminished in any way." There is also the fear that the boom in staging the Games may burst and the

IOC needs to have financial reserves. On the final day of this emergency session the 91 fOC members agreed that there will be an electoral college that will select a shortlist of two for the 2000 Winter Games. The six cities are Helsinki, Finland; Clagenfurt, Austria; Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; Sion, Switzerland; Turin, Italy and Zako pane, Poland. The decision will be

EQUESTRIANISM: 'POLICE HORSE' LAYS DOWN LAW WITH FINE DISPLAY OF SPEED JUMPING

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER made an auspicious start to the World the frish-bred Diamond Cliff - a horse that he thought initially was too big for him won the 50-strong Indoor Brabant event after a masterly display of speed jumping on

the huge, long-striding horse. Standing more than 17 hands high, and nicknamed the "police horse" because of his size, the 11-year-old gelding made light work of the twisty, ten-fence course to relegate Peter Geerink, of Holland, on Damiro, to second place by nine-hundredths of a second.

Whitaker's Diamond shows real polish

"He was almost turning too fast for me." a delighted Whitaker said. "You wouldn't call him a speed horse to look at, but he can do the job." Diamond Cliff, owned by Martin Donoghue and Mar-

tin Walsh, has been with Whitaker for 18 months and underlined his scope with a victory in the Windsor Grand Prix last May. Two months later he sustained a severe nosebleed while competing in

Rotterdam and was rested for five months. The break proved timely. Since returning to the circuit last month, he has been placed regularly and was third in the competitive Paris Grand Prix last week.

Despite his rapid improve-ment, though, Whitaker has decided that he is still too inexperienced to ride in the World Cup qualifier on Sunday, the main event of this four-day meeting. Instead, Diamond

Cliff will contest the Grand Prix on the same day, while Heyman, on which Whitaker was eighth in Paris last week. goes for the qualifier.

Robert Smith had the fastest time in the class on Senator For The Best but, turning in sharply to the final double, he incurred a frustrating eight faults when the last two fences fell. Smith, who refers to the gelding as "a bit of a wild card", remains confident that he will be in tune for the Grand Prix on Sunday, in which, after his win in Amsterdam, he has the chance of a £30.000 bonus.

Belgium, whose top horse Fior succumbed to a severe bout of colic last week, had some timely consolation when he won the Indoor Brabant Stakes on Shurlands Governor, a former winner of the Speed Horse of the Year event at Wembley.

"He's always very competitive, a real trier," Mathy, the son of one of Europe's largest horse dealers, said of the 12-year-old gelding, who won by a comfortable two-second margin from McLain Ward, of the United States, on Alegro.

Italy should shed light on new dawn in Wales

follow rugby in Wales know by now that the team is making some kind of statement either that they are frustratingly changeable, or that they may be starting to offer something different. To confirm the first proposidon will only take until tomorrow, when after the exotic extravagance of France, we shall see how far down from the clouds - or not, as the case may be -Wales have come when they play Italy in Treviso.

The second might take a while longer to prove, if ever, What is certain is that the team has aroused curiosity. and not only in Wales. Some may not feel deliriously happy when the Welsh achieve a good result, but at least they aill want to know what the Welsh are up to. Better to be looked over, as they say hereabours, rather than overlooked, which has been the Welsh misfortune for too long. Wales followers have been

here before, and on many occasions, bright new dawns that have proved to be neither new nor bright. Ever since 1988, ten years after Wales's last triple crown triumph in 1979, successive victories or the championship win in 1994 have heralded a sense of optimism that the dismal record of the last couple of decades may be over. It has never been fulfilled: tints of occasional colourful brilliance have been overshadowed by a grey mediocrity.

Some believe that it may be different now, although results do not support this point of view. This season, of the five fixtures played, only two have been won, not



Rugby Union Commentary

enough to call for a street party, although after Paris you could not blame anyone who did. But having enjoyed the thrills of that game and savoured the unexpected victory, the question remains as to whether it was another flash in the pan.

The remarkable point about the win against France was the manner in which it was achieved. Graham Henry, the New Zealander who coaches the Wales team, holds strong views about the way the game should be played and has put them into practice, as he did when he promoted the running, attacking game while he was coach to Auckland. It is one thing to do this in New Zealand, where confidence is never less than high, but quite another to promote it in a

nation whose rugby psyche has been persistently battered. Lesser coaches, having lost their first two matches in the Five Nations Championship. based on a handling game.

would have retreated into

defensive game. "Shy does not win you matches. Bold does,' he says. He lives by this. That Henry should pursue

his attacking policy in the face of adverse results and critical comment may be due to the fact that he is an outsider. The tradition and history of the Five Nadons Championship can often be burdensome. The weight of neighbourty conflict forces a contracted vision and inhibits a broader perspective. Henry's view is not so distorted, neither does he carry any baggage from the

If the importance of the Five Nations Championship and the passion that attends it has taken him by surprise, as he admits, it has not deflected him from his purpose. The propaganda of envy devaluing the championship, which has emerged from the southern hemisphere, is something that Henry has been forced to reconsider. In return, his hard-nosed attitude, allied to

enhanced the tournament. To give a sense of belief to a demoralised Wales team which was their condition after the Ireland defeat, and to persuade them not to deviate from their style was a significant achievement. Yet, there were suggestions in the previous matches that Wales were attempting to play in a style ambitiously different from the other home countries. The question was whether the ambition was beyond them and, with a fragile team,

whether it still is. Can Wales continue to play a superior game and go on and win a series of matches? Italy may give them some idea.

SPORT

Injury blow for **Thomas**

ATHLETICS: Iwan Thomas. the Commonwealth 400 metres champion was expected to return to Britain from Johannesburg today after an ankle injury in training. The Welshman, a regular competitor on the South African summer circuit, was due to compete at the high-aldtude Ruimsig Stadium track near Johannesburg tomorrow.

METBALL: England have drafted Southampton goal defence Kelly Oxlade into the Under-17 squad to defend the European title in the championships which begin in Cardiff next Thursday. Overlooked in the selection last autumn, Oxlade has won promotion after showing great technical improvement

his expansive mood, has this year. **CRICKET:** Sam Loxton, one of 11 surviving "Invincibles" from Don Bradman's 1948 Australia side that completed an unbeaten tour of England, is to auction his cherished baggy green cap to raise money to aid cancer research. It is expected to fetch about **ECYCLING** Police in

> Bologna questioned Abraham Olano, the world time-trial champion, yesterday in connection with a doping ioquiry. The reigning world time trial champion refused to answer reporters' questions when he

South Africa fail to exploit early gains

WELLINGTON (first day of five; New Zealand won toss): New Zealand have scored 211 for six wickets against South Africa

A PARTNERSHIP of 145 for the fifth wicket between Gary Stead and Chris Harris pulled New Zealand out of trouble on the opening day at the Basin Reserve. They had been re-duced to 58 for four before Stead and Harris combined to grind down the pace attack. Harris never looked happy

against a barrage of short-pitched bowling, but Stead used the pace of the ball off an excellent batting pitch to collect singles and boundaries behind square on both sides of

the wicker The second new ball accounted for Stead when he was magnificently caught by Shaun Pollock off the bowling of Steve Elworthy after batting 210 minutes for his 68.

Elworthy, deputising for the injured Allan Donald, collected his fourth wicket of the day shortly before the close when Daniel Vettori, the nightwatchman, edged to Kallis at second

Harris became unwell during the last session, because of the effects of dehydration on a hot, sunny day, but recovered and will resume with 66 runs to his name after 225 minutes at the crease

The South Africa bowlers were supported by fine slip catching, Jonty Rhodes's effort to remove Bryan Young being outstanding.

NEW ZEALAND: First lonings
J Home c Cultiman b Politick
A Young c Rhodes b Kallis
The Country b Election
J Astle b Election
J Astle b Election
T Stead c Politick b Election
Z Hants not cut
L Vettor c Kalls b Election
L C Parms not cut Total (6 wids) 211
**D.J Nash, S.B Doulland S.B O'Cornor to be.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-32, 3-57, 4-58, 5-203, 8-207.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND STAGE STUBBORN RECOVERY AFTER STICKY START TO THIRD TEST

BASKETBALL BUDWESSER LEAGUE Birmingham Bullets 31 Edinburgh Rodies 82: Worthing Sears 85 Derty Storm 100.
MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Boston 118 Los Angeles Citopers 84. Phidaighth 114 indigent 110; Asianza 68 Merries 85. Charlotte 119 Phoenix 111. Detroit 101 Toronto 103 New Jessey 85 Dalžas 87. Orlando 103 Chicago 94 Dermer 103 Houston 114, Golden State 78 Sen Antonio 82.

BELFAST: Women's bome International Indoor championship; breisind bit Wales 135-100 (treated steps first J Multicitard bit Evens 23-13, O Ben'd bit O Rowlends 27-15, J Evens br J Ackland 24-21; A McGunness bt A Dainton 23-17, C O'Gorman bt S Oliver 24-13, S Baille lost to M Tenner 14-21)

EQUESTRIANISM "S HERTOGENBOSCH, Holland: World Cup Show: Indoor Brabent Prise: 1, Diamond Claff (3 Whiteler, GB) 0 penalties in 50 51sec; 2. Demiro (P Geenrin, Hol) 0, 15,48. Indoor Brabant Statest 1, Sturiends Governor (F Methy, Be) 0 in 51 23, 2, Alegro (M Ward, US) 0 in 53 24, 3. Gordon (F Tacken, Hol) 0 in 53 49.

FOOTBALL Cup Winners' Cup Quarter-final, second leg

L HOSCOM (5) 1 M HAFA (0) 0 (chappinov 72 (gen) 16,000 (Lokomotiv Moscow win 4-0 on agg) Wednesday's late results ELIROPEAN CLIP: Quarter

(Dyrramo Kev win 3-1 on agg), internazion-ale I Man Uid 1 (Man Uid win 3-1 on agg). Kasanslautem (I Bayem Munich 4 (Bayem Munich win 6-0 on agg): Olympiakos I Ju-vantus 1 (Juventus win 3-2 on agg) NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green 1 Yeou? DR MARTIENS LEAGUE: Mildland division: Paget () Moor Green 1 Southern division: Paget () Moor Green 1 Moor Green 2 Moor League Convey Ammandard () Might Land League Control 1, Rother 1 Peterbeed 2, AVCN RISURANCE CONTRINATION: Prest division: Bendford 1 Norwich 4 Brighton 1 Westbecom 12 Carrbridge 3 Southampton 4, Gillingham 1 West Ham 1 Luton 3 Wycombe 1, Ordard 2 Barnet () Peterborough 1 Bournemough 1; Westord 3 Querre Pain Rangers 2. SCHWEPPES ESSEX SEMIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 2 Concord 1. NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE FOREST

FIXTURES

ANCE THE GOVERNITY STEELERS VICTORIAN CONTROL LEAGUE: Promier Givernor Steelboure v Sigo (7 45), Waterlood v Shamrock (7 45).

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: NOt'm Forest v Arsenal (2.0) RUGBY LINHON

Under-21 international matches England v France

Annoth Institution: Gustorough 2
Billingham Syntonia 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Presider division: Bolton Torest 2 Derby 2. Florat division: Bolton 1 Shrew-sbury 3. Scarborough 2 NegaCounty 0. Wreathern 5 Lincoln 3. Third divistors Bury 1 Hult 0. Chester 1 Carleste 1.
Chesterfield 1 Hartiscool 1 Langue Cupt
Cupt Hartiscool

POOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-

England v France (at Redruth, 1.30).... Italy v Wales (at Rovigo, 7.30)..... Sootland v Ireland (at Myresicia, 7.0)....

Scotland v Ireland (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling, 6.30)... CLUS MATCH: Harlequers v Bientiz (7:30). RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT BASICTBALL: Burleman League: Milcon Naymes Loris v Leocester Ridens (7:30); Sheffield Shefic w Memohester Gents (7:45); HOCKEY: Worsper's Borse methors toutnament. (at DISC, Durden): Under-18t Scotland v Neter (11:5). Under-18t Scotland v Neter (11:5). Under-18t Scotland v Neter (11:45). TCE HOCKEY: Saleonda play-off championship: Group B: Newcastle Riverlangs v Cardid Devils (7:15).

JJB Super League

Leeds v Wigan (7.30) ...

Brache Sperts 3 Weithern Abbey 3: Bucking-harn Atheric 3 Adizon Keynes 3, Toddington 0 Brook House 0 BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Smeinweck ? Bandon 1 Toton 3 Bustlefolme 1; Wolverhampton 0 Liye 3 CLUB MATCH: Boulogne 2 Liverpool 1. DUTCH LEAGUE Cambur Leawarden 1 Feynnoord 5: NAC Breds 0 PIKC Weelwijk 2. eyencord 5; NAC Breda (fortune Satard 3 Utrecht

ALDERSHOT: Services championsh Veterens: Royal Navy 2 RAF () Junio Royal Navy 4 RAF 4 Senions: Royal Nav RAF 3. Women: Army 3 Royal Navy 2 ICE HOCKEY

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL); Tempe Bay 0 Pitisburgh 2, Washington 2 Dalas 1 (OT); Detroit 3 Procests 4, Toronto 7 Boston 4; Cri-cago 3 Calgary 1; Edmonton 1 New Jesey 4, Ansham 2 Ottawa 2, San Jose 4 Florida 2

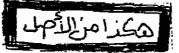
RUGBY LEAGUE NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSKEP: Featherstone 28 Widnes 12; Whiteheven 24 Lanca-shire Lynx 12, Huli KR 8 Oldham 8.

RUGBY UNION ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Glouces-ter 25 Cards 30

SAILING

CLUB MATCH: Richmond XV 41 Royal Navy 17.

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE-Log 3c (Shanghei to Hong Kong; with miles to finish): 1. Ariel (A Thomson) 405, 2. Anti-ope (K Hamis) 412; 3. Taoping (N Flenting) 415; 4. Chrysolie (T Hedges) 422; 5. Senta (R Dean) 425; 5. Mermenus (B Sollars) 442; 7. Thermopytae (M Tod) 470



BOXING: SOUTH AFRICAN MINT DESIGNS \$3 MILLION BELT TO ATTRACT LEWIS AND HOLYFIELD

ennox Lewis flew into London yesterday and called on Evander Holyfield to give him the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) belts the world thinks are rightfully his. Lewis, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion. once again said that Holyfield should admit that he was beaten in the bout for the undisputed world heavyweight championship in New York last weekend, which was scored a draw. It was time the warrior started being a sportsman and did the

Lewis said: "If Evander Holyfield is a man he should admit that he got beaten and give me my belts. But he is not that kind of character. There were [American] journalists who were saying that I have no heart. Now they have all turned around. They realise that I won the fight, that Holyfield is holding my belts. They

are actually my belts. "I have answered many questions about myself and there are other questions and I will answer them as well. It was weird to see so many people coming up and saving I won. The public got hurt because they came to see a champion crowned and they were Mandela makes bid for rematch

disappointed they did not."
While Holyfield considers his next move and Lewis's management tries to get Holyfield back in the ring for a rematch, Nelson Mandela has stepped into the row. The South African President has offered to stage the bout in South Africa for the Mandela Belt, which will be for the undisputed title. The belt, which has been designed with the help of the South African mint, will be made of 22-carat gold and cost \$3 million.

In New York, government agencies have started invest-igations into allegations of cor-ruption by officials involved in the Lewis-Holyfield bout at Madison Square Garden. A grand jury has been convened to see whether criminal proceedings are warranted.

Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the London promotion company behind Lewis, said that everyone involved in the



Lewis poses with a photo of the proposed Mandela Belt

promotion at the Garden had been subpoenzed, including Seth Abraham, the president of Time Warner Sport, Lou DiBella, his vice-president. Don King, the promoter, the presidents of the WBC, the WBA and the IBF, and the three judges. Meanwhile, it has been rethe judge who scored the fight in favour of Holyfield, filed bankruptcy papers six weeks

Eliades said the Lewis team would not be waiting for the verdicts of the different investigating bodies, and would be going ahead with talks with Holyfield and promoters for the rematch. He believes that if Holyfield does intend to fight. he would not step into the ring before September or October.

"We are discussing terms with Holyfield," Eliades said. "He has said he wants a rematch. I don't know if he means it. He has asked for more money than he received

Don King would not be in-volved with the next promo-tion because according to Eliades. he broke his contract by not putting up letters of credit for the Lewis-Holyfield fight and HBO had to step in. "We don't want King as promoter. We need an independent promoter," Eliades said.

"The people who have been put forward are Madison Square Garden, and they have agreed to promote. They are looking at the Yankee Stadium, which holds 60,000. We are looking at different locations. As well as South Africa.

Las Vegas and Britain.
"Nelson Mandela is willing to find the money. So far, the South African offer is by far the best, double other bids. Nelson Mandela is shocked at what happened with Lennox.

He wants to put things right."
Frank Maloney, Lewis's
manager, has had talks with
Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, and was thinking of staging the bout at Wembley or Cardiff. "Cardiff would like it in September. Their stadium holds 75,000 and the roof can keep out the weather."

Lewis's lawyers have petitioned the three boxing organisations to declare both the fighters mandatory challengers. That could force Holyfield to meet Lewis for a purse put up by a promoter if the two fighters cannot agree terms. If Holyfield refused then, he would be stripped of his titles.

SRIKUMAR SEN

New challenge fits the bill



Catley and his fellow boxers will have their stamina tested

Choose a film for the

way you feel tonight.

Flubber

Chasing Amy

Boogie Nights

Men In Black

Sky Premier at 8,000m

Sky Premier at 16,005m

Sky Premier 3 at 9,00pm

Sky Promier 3 at 10,00pm

Sky Premier 4 at 7,00pm

Sky Moviemax at 9.30pm

Days Of Heaven

Sky Oinema 2 at 9.00pm

F9mFour at 8,00pm

skydigital TV as you want it.

08702 42 42 42 The Cincinnati Kid

al these

jus 50 more.

Sky Moviemax 3 at 11,00pm

That Thing You Do

Speed 2: Cruise Control

Sky Premier Widespreen at 8.00pm

Jackie Chan's First Strike

Romy & Michele's Reunion

The Full Monty

One Fine Day

The English Patient

Sky Box Office, starting every 15 mins

Sky Box Office, starting every 30 mins

Sky Box Office, starting every 30 mins

The Wings Of The Dove

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

David Powell looks forward to a contest that will settle an old argument



FOR those who do not know their abductors from their adductors, their gluteus maximus from their gluteus min-imus, there will be no active part to play in the X Zone at the NEC in Birmingham this weekend Casual spectators should prepare for a bewildering experience. So many fit people, so much high-tech gym equipment. Leave your flab at the door. If only. For all but a few, the body

beautiful does not come easy. High-performance fitness is hard-earned. Take Hywel Davies. the organisers' tip to win the men's individual title. Around his job as a teacher, Davies trains mornings and evenings. "Two hours in the gym every night, a 30-minute run in the mornings, three to five hours' cycling or running at weekends," he said.

While the inter-sports team challenge will feature some of Britain's leading sportsmen and women - Harlequins and Bath from rugby union, Leeds Rhinos from rugby league. Frank Warren's boxers and the England women's

squad among them - it is the winners of the 'Anybody open competitions who will be able to who wins claim to be Britain's fittest man and woman. will say he Davies obliged to enter. is Britain's He thought he held the undisputed title already, but when Esprit, a marketing company, decided

to enter the fray,

Davies was cor-nered. "With the publicity the X Zone is getting, anybody who wins is going to go round saying he is Britain's fittest man." Davies said. "I do not want anybody claiming that without me having a go." A health and fitness magazine — the publication whose competition Davies won has accused the organisers of plagiarising its event. "This is

my place," Davies said. "I

have won everything else there is to win." Michael Smithwick, managing director of Esprit, argues that the X Zone is the best attempt yet to find Britain's fittest people. He claims that, by promoting the X Zone through 2,700 health clubs and The Times, he has the strongest claim yet. However, Mark Mckeon, editor of Ultra-Fit magazine, said: "The Ultra-Fit X-Training Challenge is far superior to the X Zone because the former tests all components of fitness in a progres-

sive, systematic manner." The X Zone involves ten gymnasium-based disciplines and takes the form of race competition, with heats, semi-finals and finals over two days.



Cullen hopes to shatter a few myths about hockey players

would get anywhere near the guy who wins this," Smith-

Davies said: "The X Zone is the best all-round test of aerobic fitness because it has got cycling, rowing, stepping and running, but there is no strength involved." This may count against him

on Sunday, "There are people who are aerobically fitter," he said. "If you take the best marathon runner in the country and the best weightlifter, you have got me in The team challenge has drawn 12

sports for

straight final, with

fittest sportsman'

men and women in the same race. Each team will comprise five competitors, the ten disciplines shared between them. How fit is an international hockey player compared with a boxer or rugby player? This attempts to find out. The England players Tina Culien, Carolyn Reid, Jennie Bimson and Sarah Blanks are included. This is a great another title I need to confirm

myth about jolly hockey sticks and demonstrate how fit our players are," Ian Thomas, the marketing director of English Hockey, said.

They will find tough women's opposition from rowing, which includes Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, runners-up in the world championship coxless pairs last year.

Glenn Catley, who fought Richie Woodhall last year for the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title, is among those representing Warren's boxing stable. The squad has been put together by Chris Sanigar, the trainer. Chris is fascinated with the idea of putting his lads to the test," Richard Hart, Warren's spokesman, said.

The Harlequins squad is drawn from the club's first XV and includes Chris Sheasby. while Leeds Rhinos have named lestyn Harris, Andy Hay, Marvin Golden and Francis Cummins from the team that took the club into the Challenge Cup semi-finals last week. Also strongly represented is squash, with Del Harris, Paul Johnson, Chris Walker and Simon Parke.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

(b) A shallow ornamental bowl or vase. Properly, one supported on a foot. The stalian word for a cup. "Beautiful tazzas of jasper, lapis-lazuli, and malachite." TOWHER

(c) The ground-robin or cheewink of North America. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. An echoic name, from one of its notes. "He utters his loud Towhee, a note so characteristic that it has become one of his names."

UPPING (c) The action of catching and marking swans. "The operation of upping is performed by the Crown and the Companies' swan-

(c) The posterior coloured surface or choroid coat of the eye. The name for it in medieval medical Latin.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE 1 ... R863! and if 2 gxf3 Qxh3+ mates; if the white queen moves then 2 ... Rxh3+ will mate while finally 2 Qxf3 Rxf3 3 Rxf3 Nf2+ "No professional sportsman wins easily on material.

TELEVISION CHOICE

New cars for old rope

Like most game shows this is mammon time—but fun with it. A studio audience to will the contestants on? You've got it. The contestants? Two couples, both self-conscious and trying hard to be characters but rather nice. The host? The gangling Claudia Winkleman doesn't seem over the top and seems to know what she's doing. So far, so predictable. Now here's the gimmick. There are predictable. Now here's the grantick. There are four cars on offer (each gets an analysis from a Jack the Lad car dealer and a rather sterner motoring journalist), and the two couples pick the one they lancy. But will they be allowed to drive it away? Winkleman puts them through the hoops with her questions, and the audience, not knowing their original choices, writes on which car best suits whin ner questions, and the admentite their original choices, votes on which car best suns them. Will they be trading up or driving home in their old jalopy? Worth a spin . . .

Murder Most Horrid

BBC2, 9pm

BBC2, 9pm
In Confessions of a Murderer Dawn French, at her most manic, plays the cop and crime-obsessed Harriet Snelgrove. Her cats are named Bodie, Doyle and Frost. She collects old videos of Hawaii Five-O and can mime every word. Over the past ten years not a crime in her home patch of Nutley has gone unsolved — because. Ms Snelgrove has confessed loudly and in lurid detail, to every one of them. The local duty officer (Philip Jackson) explains to the new young inspector (fresh out of university and gloriously pedantic) that Snelgrove is bonkers. But the poor man has to find out the truth the hard way. Co-written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, this is the best yet.

Smack the Pony Channel 4, 9.30pm

Fiona Allen, Doon MacKichan and Sally Phillips you may recognise from separate appearances in shows such as Goodness Gracious Me, The Day Today, Brass Eye and I'm Alan Partridge. Now they've grouped together for Talkback Productions

Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips in Smack the Pony (C4, 9.30pm)

tresponsible for most of the above) and come up with a chain of short sketches almost every one of which him its target. Feminist without being strident, they put women down as crisply as they do men, and are, in short, very, very funny. You're in luck, too, because you can enjoy them straight after Murder Most Horrid. And no, I don't know what the title means. Enjoy.

You will now see sights it was impossible to see on television (even Channel 4) as little as five years ago. Pleasure Island is the mickmame for a Jamaican resort called Hedonism II. "If it's wicked it's included", says Eladio the suave MC as be shows new tourists the various activities. "This is the all-nude area — volleyball courts here — and the wet T-shirt area. "Out of the fog and grime of urban England (largely it would seem the North) they come — like Maggie with her suitcase of ear plugs. HRT pills and fan photos of Cliff Richard. Maggie manages a petrol station and has been on anti-depressants for a year. She first heard of Hedonism II on TV. Jamaican locals privately call it The Zoo. ITV, 10.30pm

I am for once in the happy position of knowing as much about this play's ending as any other sistener; it has apparently been changed since I was sent a preview tape but whatever has been done to it I doubt that the play, adapted by Gabrielle Lloyd from Marjorie Riddell's collected writings, is any less listenable. This is a way tale about mother-daughter relationships and how cuting the proverbial about strange is no

cutting the proverbial apron strings is no guarantee of escape. The setting is Cheshire in 1954 and mother (Rosalind Ayres) never tires of

warning daughter (Jennifer Dundas Lowe) about the perils of leaving home, which of course is what daughter does, Miriam Margoyles, Jane Carr and Caroline Seymour co-star.

Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf Enduring Love 8.25 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.05

Enduring Love 8.35 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.05
The Art of Translating 9.20 John Peel 9.50 Sports Round-Up
10.00 Newsdeck 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Your Questions Of
Faith 11.00 Newsdeck 11.30 Focus on Faith 12.00 World
News 12.06pm Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00
Newshous 2.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Music
Review 3.00 World News 3.05 Footbes Edra 3.15
Performance 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 World News
4.15 Insight 4.30 Musti track: Alternative 5.00 Europe Today
5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World
News 6.15 Britain Today 9.30 Focus on Faith 7.00 World News
7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Cuestion Of Faith 7.45 Off 1,
the Shelf; Enduring Love-8.00 Newshour 0.00 World News
9.05 World Business Report 9.28 Britain Today 9.30 Music
Review 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30
Multitack Alternative 11.00 World News 11.05 Outbook 11.46
Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30mm Science in Action
12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 13.30 World Business
Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weelend

CLASSIC FIV

6.00mm Nick Beiley's Easier Breaklast, Music to get the day off to a fine start 9.00 Michael Mappin. The Hall of Farne Hour and Classic Masterpiece 12.00 Lunchtime Requests, Jane Jones plays favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Brehms (Molin Concerto in O mejor) 3.00 Jamie Crick Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and have news 6.30 Newshight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Bruming introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a theme of Pagenint. Eigar (Cello Concerto in Eminor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in O major) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music through till the smell hours 2.00em Concerto. Brahms (Violin Concerto in O major) (?) 3.00 Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breaklast Show

Afternoon Play: M for Mother

Radio 4, 2.15pm

RADIO CHOICE

The return of The News Quiz is a radio event always to be welcomed, with the caveat on this occasion being that it replaces The Sunday Format, undoubtedly the best new comedy show for a long time and one that deserved better than a four-week run. The News Quiz is of course the show that launched BBC2's Have I Got News For You and I still think that the father is better than the offspring; the latter is too often a vehicle for celebrity showing off whereas on radio you actually have to be furny. The presenter Simon Hoggart had a hard act to follow when he took over from Barry Took but he has warmed to the job. The team captains are Andy Hamilton and some chap called Coren.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30mm Zoe Bell 0.00 Smon Meyo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Merk Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Radio 1 Rep Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00ant Alex Lester 7.30 Sareh Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page, New series (1/8) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Single and Single (4/8) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jecobs 10.30 Sheridan Morey 11.45 The People's Pasims 12.00 Nicky Home 4.00am Lata Sherma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00 Breatest with Julean Wontcler and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Annie Webster 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Alian Robb and Jane Gancy 7.00 News Extra. News round-up, including a sports bulletin 7.30 Alert Green's sporting issues 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00mm Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00mm The Big Boys Breekfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally Jemes 12.00 Motoring 1.00pm Anna Raebum 3.00 OKI to Talk 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Nicky Home's Access all Areas 10.00 Dave Barrett 1.00mm Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30em Chris Evens 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Steve Power

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, Beethoven (Egmont Overture); Ledair (Violin Concerto in D, Op 7 No 2); Egar (Froissert Overture) 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Dvorak

Op 7 No 2): Elgar (Froissert Cverture)

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Dvorak
(Slavoric Suite in C. Op 46): Poutene, after
Gerveise (Suite francaise): Faure (Prelude:
Penelope): Debussy (Trols poemes de Mellarme):
Andre Caplet (Conte lantasique): Mozart
(Symphony No 39 in G minor, K543)

10.30 Artist of the Weele: Gillian Weir

11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters A look at
Ravel's if health

12.00 Composer of the Weele: Strauss

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchalme Concert Roland
Portinen, plano. Includes Bosoni (Gigue, Bolero
and Variations); Turandola Frauengemach; Die
Nachtlichen, Elegies); Lista (Gnomenreigen, S145
No 2; Vedilla regis prodeurit; Wegenited; Valse
oublies No 4); Dabussy (Pour les sides; Pour les
degres chormatiques) (r)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of
Wales under Mark Wigglesworth and Tedazid
Otale, Martin Roscoe, plano. Tchalkovsky
(Overture: Romeo and Juliet); Brahms (Plano
Concerto No 1 in D minor); Tchalkovsky (The
Nutoracker, Act 2)

4.00 Mineles Raedmand Lucia Stesanion witorduces a

Coricative of the printip), ichanovsky (the Nutracker, Act 2)

4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a programme of country delights (f)

4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Peerson

5.00 In Tune Seen Rafferty is joined by the planist

Imagen Cooper, who performs live in the studio
7-30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live
from St John's, Smith Square, London, introduced
by Stephanie Hughes, London Mozart Players
under Metihias Barnert, Britten (Prefude and
Fugue); Bloch (Concerto Grosso No 1); Martin
(Petite Symphonie Concertente) 8-30 Book of the
Month. An extended review of The Autobiography
of Martin Luther King 8-50 Concert, part two.
Tippett (Concerto for Orchestre)

of Martin Luther King 8.50 Concert, part two.
Tippett (Concerto for Orchestra)

9.40 Postacript: The Pas de Deux (5/5)

10.00 Hear and Now Verity Sharp investigates the thriving new music scene in New Zealand. Includes the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Kenneth Young, performing Gillian

Whitehead (Resurgences): Jack Body (Melodies): Haten Bowaler (New Year Fanfare): Lyell Cresswell (3alm); John Psathas (Seidies)

11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz (f)

12.00 Composer of the Wealt Detlus (f)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Brahms (Liebaslieder, Neue Liebaslieder, Selection of Hungarian Dances) 2.15 Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet) 2.45 Prokofiev (Four Etudes, Op 2) 2.55 Mozant (Requiem) 3.58 Rudoff Eacher (Tino) 4.40 Durante (Concerto No.1 in F minor) 5.05 Franck (Prekude, Chorale and Fugue) 5.30 Bach (Violin Sonsta No.3 in C, Fugue) 5.50 Schubert (Du bist die Ruft; Bei dir altern)

RAUIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 inshers Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Dey 5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with John Humpinya and Sue MacGregor 8.35 (LW) Yestarday in Parliament The latest political developments

0.00 Desert island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is the restaurant critic Fay Maschier (r)

9.45 (FW) Serial: Letters from My Windmill Stephen Fry reads the last of five extracts from Alphonse

Daucier's reflections on Provence and its people 9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship 10.00 Woman's Hour The chief prosecutor for the UN War Crimes Tribunal Louise Arbour talks to Jenna Manual Louise Arbour talks to Jenna

War Crimes Tribunal Louise Arbour talks to Jenn Murray about her work

11.00 Sharks and Seaguilis: A Stander with Sussex David Stalford concludes his look at the fortunes of Sussex County Cricket Club (r)

11.30 Sunny Side Up The Gies Boys enter the barbershop grand final in Herrogate (8/6)

12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast

12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barciay and John Waite

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke

1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Mestanka presents riddles and brain-leasers

and brain-leasers 2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)

emoon Play: M for Mother by Marjorle Riddell A woman becomes increasingly concerned about her daughter's move to London and feels compelled to interfere. See Choice (r)

3.00 Making History New series. Sue Cook investigates historical mysteries, and offers advice

on conducting research
3.30 Carnival Tales Mark Rickards experiences the
flamboyent carnival atmosphere at Ric Grande de Sal. Last in series (5/5)

3.45 This Sceptred late Part 55 of the history of Britain, nameled by Anna Massey (f)
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter and guests discuss a new version of Aesop's Fables and modern novels involving journeys (f)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodle and his guests discuss current media transis
5.00 PM with Kevin Bocquet and Chris Lowe
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 The News Gutz New series. See Choice
7.00 The News Gutz New series. See Choice
7.15 Front Row Live arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittem by Tim Jackson.
Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)

7.45 Front now Live and programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern by Tim Jackson.
Broadcast earlier as part of Women's Hour (r)
8.00 Arry Questions? Audience members from
Leyburn in North Yorkshize address panelists
including the Times columnist Will Self and Steven
North. Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another
sice of stateside file
9.00 The Friday Play: Alin't it Grand to Be Bloomlin'
Well Dead by John Clifford, inspired by Federico
Garda Lorca. Lestie analyses his relationships,
secuelity and death. With Graham Turner, Tom
McGovern and Liam Brennan
10.00 The World Towight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strak is the Gate David.
McKeil concludes his reading of André Gide's
stoy (r)

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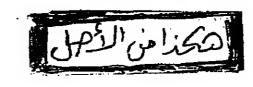
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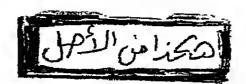
story (r) 11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tacide Beanor Oldroyd

11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tacide Deanor Unroyal Chare the sporting magazine
11.30 (LW) Today in Pertament
11.30 (FM) Sport in the Movies Pat Butcher Investigates the history of sport on Brin
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Boole The Mask of Command The final part of John Keepan's meritation on the nature of leadership mediation on the nature of leadership

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.





The bra's the star so why bother with cars?

ever really left Top Gear (BBCI). He just transmuted into half-a-dozen other presenters. The spirit of the lolloping, permed prankster hangs over the programme like sticky ectoplasmic gloop, forcing each and every one of them to talk in the same laddish. quasi-ironic, wacky eraggerations.

CH 19 1999

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Whatever you have read elsewhere, the real reason Clarkson left the show was that he was unwilling to conform to the rule that all male presenters with the letter "I" in their names must have a double letter where you would normally expect to find one.

This leaves Quentin Willson, who has had his twisty, ironic little smile wired into place, ruling the roost, with Tiff Needell as heir apparent.

Last night Willson and femalle sidekick Julia (women are exempt from the double I rule) Bradbury

a new Llotus Esprit 350. But they pretended Willson made a bish of the navigation and they nearly went to Budapest, which was sim-ply hillarious! Then they pretended they had driven right into the middle of the show, which had me fallling off my sear!

This is automotive pornography, said Willson of the new Ferrari 360 Modena. The Itallians have perfected on perfection." He allso lloved Fiat's compact peoplie-carrier. "The interior is a mixture of Vivienne Westwood and Fireballil XLLS," he cliaimed confusingly. "When did you liast see an air-vent as dellicious as that?" Actuality it llooked rather uglly to me. And who wants to eat an air-vent?

Even the female presenters talk this gibberish, and turn out to be lads with breasts. "It's the most fun you can have with your bra on - or off!" quipped Vicki Butlerwent to the Geneva Motor Show in ... Henderson after test-driving .a .

out of the car window just like Claudia Schiffer in that French car advert. Llaugh? I nearly did.

Il this humour is a smoke-A screen. It affects a saturical distance, an amused detachment complicit between programme and viewers, which is entirely phoney. The nitty gritty is buried in the jargon of auto-speak and V12 engines which "pack" this, "punch" that or give "masses of power down at the bottom". One car has a "delivery of 420 horses". apparently, while another, worryingly, "will punch out nearly 150 horses". Tiff Needell even went for a niche in history in a McLaren Fl. He broke the record for the Fastest Average Speed for a Production Car around a UK circuit. Gosh.

Let's face it, these people are

nerds. This is a motoring programme for fantasists. Audi-

ence research reveals that the

REVIEW



Paul

programme packs a walloping 0.01 per cent of viewers who will ever be able to afford any of these cars new (I guess). Committed reg-ulars must warch the programme as they might flick through a copy of Playboy, ogling the goodies, but unable to touch.

At least it proves that such fantasising is not simply the preserve of men, a point which was raised again in a different guise during Every Woman Knows a Secret (ITV), the first of a three-part adaptagon of Rosie Thomas's novel. This is one of those tragi-roman-

tic psycho-dramas so beloved of TV drama commissioners, in the tradition of Imogen's Face or those Deborah Moggach adaptations. Siobhan Redmond plays Jess, a 40-year-old divorcee who dotes on her 22-year-old son. Danny.

When Danny is killed in a drink-driving accident she is inconsol-able, unable to forgive his friend Rob, a handsome blond carpenter, who was at the wheel and survived. But Rob is strangely drawn to her and insists on revealing the unknown dark side of Danny's character, that he was a spoils, arrogant would-be rapist who caused the accident himself. So, of course, they go to bed together. As you do.

When male writers construct scenarios in which a middle-aged middle-class bloke gets to have sex

with a beautiful young woman, this is usually treated with some suspicion. Melvyn Bragg's A Time To Dance, for instance, was ridiculed for such male-menopausal wish-fulfilment. Well middle-aged women do it, too, in this case with a hunky chippy, so there!

t was reasonably entertaining. All these adaptations suffer from the concertina-effect of novels squashed into screenplays. It was hard to establish character. and events were so rapid I occasionally lost track of who was who and where and why. And it lacked the insight of a Moggach. But Siobhan Redmond's bulging eyes blazed convincingly under her fringe of flaming red locks and that made up for a lot. I

wish she didn't remind me of Home Front's Anne McKevitt. though. I kept expecting her to cover everything in lime-green MDF. Doomed! We're all still doomed,

normally such a sober, responsible series, entered the realm of the Nature's Most Violent Apocalypse From Spaces" type documentaries which are all the rage these days, with New Asteroid Danger.

To be fair the programme last night took the usual pains to estab-lish the scienofic basis of its main proposition. This is that the current obsession with massive asteroid or comet impacts is a distracdon from a much more real and present danger.

The Earth is hit every 50 years or so by objects large enough and fast enough to cause the equivalent of many nuclear explosions on impact. Such devastating impacts have occurred in Siberia (1908), the Arabian Desert (1863) and the Brazilian rainforest (1930). Eventually one will wipe out a city without warning. So sit back and savour those fantasies, because we

6.00em Business Breakfast (85432) 7.00 Breekfast News (T) (21161) 9.00 Kiroy (T) (2497635)

9.45 Wipeout (1496780) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7386074) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3939161) 11.00 Change That (3956838) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3853797) 11.55 News, Weather (T) (7804635) 12.00 Call My Bluff (29600)

12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4470093) 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53514093) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (31548) 1.30 Regional News; Weether (59370068) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (35410426) 2.05 Ironside (r) (5624971)

2.55 Through the Keyhote (r) (T) (5811726) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6277068) 3.45 Spider (5904567) 3.50 Smert on the Road (9619180) 4.05 Rugrats (6070722) 4.30 L & K Friday (3645600) 4.55 Newsround Extra (5488819) 5.10 Blue

Peter (9203884) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (132529) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (635) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (987) 7:00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson A new series of the

programme (T) (2722) 7.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Boyzone, REM, Beautiful South, Steps, Roxette, Manic Street Preachers and Britney Spears (T) (971)

8.00 Ground Force New series. An update from a revitalised garden in Senderstead, 18 months after the green-fingered team spent two days creating a colonial summer house (1) (5242)

8.30 The Buildiers Guy finishes the barn restoration (1) (7277) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (T) (2513) 9.30 Parkinson With Jack Dee and Barbara. . Windsor (T) (7,4677)



Comedy with Nick Noite and Eddie Murphy teaming up again (10.30pm

10.30 Another 48 Hrs (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, staming Eddie Murphy as the wisecracking complet who once seein isecracking convict who once again joins forces with San Francisco cop Nick Note. Directed by Walter Hill (1) (88180) 12.00 Blue Chips (1994) A college baskethall coach is forced to consider the future following his team's first defeat. With Nick Noite and Mary McDonnell. Directed by McDonnell. Directed by McDonnell. Directed by McDonnell.

William Friedkin (T) (405469) .40am Weather (1146198) 1.45 BBC News 24 (45303933)

10.30 Just Up Your Street (T) (115432) 11.05 He Can't Stop Here (500616) 11.35 FILM: Another 48 Hrs (1) (489884) 1.05em FILM: Blue Ctrips (1) (150933) 2.45 News Headlines and Weather (T) (5154285) 2.50-7.00 BBC News 24 (30940469)

7.00am Children's BBC Breekfast Show:

Dam Children's BBC Breekfast Show.
Pingu (7315616) 7.05 Telehubbies (4431136) 7.30 Snorks (8277529) 7.50 Short Chenga (3205600) 8.19 Rewind (3646971) 8.20 Taz-Mania (5966690) 8.40 Polika Dot Shorts (1921838) 8.50 Pingu (1910722) 9.00 Storytime (7549838) 9.10 See You, See Me (4191513) 9.30 Numbertime (8680819) 9.45 Come Outside (8658074) 10.00 Telefubbies (18109) 10.30 Megamaths (1419258) 10.50 Look & Read (1422722) 11.10 Tendmarks (2315432) 11.30 11.10 Landmarks (3115432) 11.30 English File (4548) 12.00 Scene (27242)

12.30pm Working Lunch (52426) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (68777068) 1.10 War Walks The evacuation of May 1940 1.40 Hart-Davis on History Adam Hart-Davis

visits a goose fair (35504819)
2.10 Awash with Colour With Suzanne
Dando in Duntanaghy (56291068) 2.40 News; Weether (T) (3118258)

2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4588432) 3.25 News; Weather (T) (4565884) 3.30 The Village (r) (9385616) 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9393635) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6072180)

4.55 Esther (1) (5057161) 5.30 Whose House? (364) 6.00 The Simpsons (1) (1) (424646) 6.20 The Simpsons (1) (1) (824682) 6.45 Robot Wars Highlights (1) (135345)

7.15 Electric Circus Gel. Porter presents entertainment and computer games news (1) (492172)

7.30 Country House Lady Tavistock and her son fall out (1) (513).

8.00 Trust Me., I'm a Doctor A look at the health benefits of alcohol (1) (3984).

8.30 Gendeners' World Stephen Lacey visits.

a restored Oxfordshire garden (T) (5819) Murder Most Horrid A fresh-faced police inspector is

diven to distraction by the implausible murder confession of eccentric Harriet Snellgrove. Dawn French stars (1) (7105)

10.00 The Young Ones (r) (l) (28971) 10.30 Newsnight Including news summary at 11.00 (1) (148155) 11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (201513).

11.20 Births, Marriages and Deeths Alan, Terry, and Graham discover Peter's hanging corpse (4/4) (r) (T) (479221)



12.15em Bartoli in Italy in a concert recorded least summer in Vicenza, Italy, the mezzo-soprano performs a selection of arias by Handel, Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini (737198)

1.45 Later with Jools Holland With Ultra Nate and Ton Amos (r) (2870310) 2.50 Weather (5142440) 2.55 Close 3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Situative Revision: RE (12020) 5.00 Close

HTV 5.30em ITV Morning News (21722)

6.00 GMTV (5851093) 9.25 Trisha (T) (8883722) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44405616) 12.15pm HTV News (4993258)

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4465161) 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (53500890) 12,55 WEST: Getaways (1) (1) (9729971) 12.55 WALES: Wish You Were Here? (1) (1) (9729971)

1,30 Home and Away James comforts Chice (T) (35512838) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (9776822) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (3916190) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4564155)

3.15 HTV News (T) (4563426) 3.20 CITV: Mopetop's Shop (4857819) 3.30 Timbucioo (5984180) 3.35 Animei Stories (9609703) 3.45 Giggly Bitz! (9629587) 4.00 Pump it Up (6171451) 4.35 Comin: Alcha (3942567)

5.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (1426) 5.30 WEST: Sportsweek Highlights (890) 5.30 WALES: Quiz Challenge General knowledge contest (T) (890) 5.58 HTV Weather (647797)

6.00 HTV News (T) (703) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Westher (I) (155)
7.00 Emmerdale Paddy and Zoe have a blazing row (I) (7890)

7.30 Coronation Street Emily babysits for the Mailetts (T) (567)

8,00 Parking. Wars New six-pert series providing an insight into the stress and paranola involved in finding perking spaces in-1990s Britain (1/6) (1) (3838) 8.30 Days Like These Ron's mother, the appropriately named Hurricane Brende, pays an eventual visit to the Former household (T) (2345)

9.00 Britain's Worst Cheats Insight into the unsavoury activities of professional illars, swindlers and thieves, from card sharps to charity fraudsters (T) (9155) 10.00 Mr and Mrs with Julien Clary New series. Return of the classic game show.



New arrivals Paul and Kim get into the party mood (10.30pm)

10.30 Piessure Island New series exploring nightifie in Hedonism II, Jamaica'a dest adult resort (1/5) (T) (32695) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (892109) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (787838) 11.30 Wonderful You Clare gets a proposition (2/7) (r) (T) (89529)

12.30em ITV at the Reading Festival Highlights (2/3) (r) (92556) 1.30 Club@vision Dence scene (2496533) 2.15 The Heunded Fishtenk (r) (65310) 2.45 SeeQuest DSV Tony is betrayed by an

3.40 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (2582662) 4.40 ITV Nightscreen (59113407) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (75730)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (T) (7068426) 12.55 Home and Away (T) (4473180) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4045074) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (56384722) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (T) (4563426) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (890) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Sbc Weather (T) (703) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (T) (787838) 11.30 Late Tackle (464600) 12.35am FILM: Shattered Dreems (1) (293846) 2.15 Club@vision (2872556) 3.00 Box Office America (12041914) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtank (f) (12044001) 3.55 Central Jobfinder '89 (T) (5313117) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3108310)

A STEOGRAPH

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry (4993258) 12.27-12.30 (7149345) 12.55-1.25 Huminations (7149345) 12.55-1.25
Westcountry Lunchtime Live (T) (4473180)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4045074)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (56384722)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T)
(4563425) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People
(7742277) 5.30 Westcountry Weekend (890)
6.00-6.20 Westcountry Live; Weather (T)
(703) 11.20-11.90 Westcountry News;
Weather (T) (787838) 11.30 Fil.M:
Caddysheck R (795258) 1.20am-1.30
Generations (1918198) Generations (1918198)

METHOLOGY

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4983258) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (8729971) 5.30 Streetwise (890) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Toright (1) (703) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (480364) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (1) (787838) 5.00em-5.30 Freescreen (T) (75730)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7143161) 12,20-12,30 Anglia News Street (9729971) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beaten Track (8/10) (T) (890) 5.00-6.30 Anglia News (T) (703) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (301567) 11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (T)

Sic Sic

Starts: 5.55em Sesame Street (1) (20034838) 7.00 The Big Breakfact (67653797) 9.00 Ysgolion: Off Limits (9800690) 9.25 Schools at Work (29647722) 8.30 Eureka (74907093) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (74902548) 10.00 The 9.45 Stop, Library (1492546) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (14959819) 10.10 TVM (9167884) 10.25 lath ar Daith (91760819) 10.45 Cynhadledd y Celdwadwyr (20168616) 12.45pm Ysgollor: Pa Newydd?: Planed Plant (67656884) 1.30 Ysgolion: Enter the Maths Zone (54623635) 1.45 The Technology Programme (54611890) 2.00 FILM: Dreamboat (77169635) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (57989066) 4.00 Fiftsen-to-One (1) (57064703) 4.30 Ricki Lake (1) (57060967) 5.00 Planed Plant (90972513) 5.30

5.00 Planed Plant (90972513) 5.30 Countdown (1) [57064557) 5.00 Newyddion 5 (T) (93220600) 6.10 Heno (1) (86883703) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (90065277) 7.30 Newyddion (1) (67061816) 8.00 Cefn Gwiad (1) (90878797) 8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi (1) (90053432) 9.00 Friends (1) (68064884) 9.30 Ramsay'a 8.01km Point (1/5) (1) (26699426) 10.00 Brookside (1) (72510890) 10.35 Frasier (1) (35619277) 11.45 TFI Friday (35080819) 12.50am 4 Later; Pulp (29395759) 1.10 Flava 191388487) 1.45 The Mod Scuad (90452049) (91388487) 1.45 The Mod Squad (90452049) 2.45 Vids (r) (36628881) 3.10 FILM: The Brides of Fu Manchu (T) (27351285) 4.40

CHANNEL 4

5.50am Animal Alphabet (1559068) 5.55 Sesame Street (r) (4118890) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41971) 9.00 Schools: Off Limits (4023203) 9.25 Schools at Work (8701432) 9.30 Eureka

(8655987) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (8570242) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (5971258) 10.10 TVM (9841432) 10.25 1798 and After (9860567) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (9010971) 11.00 The Technology Programme 11.15 Stage One (3070451) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9616)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (25838) 12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (43722)

1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (24258) 1.30 The Three Stronges (r) (83874123)
1.50 The Red Beret (1953) A conscientious
American signs up with the British
paratroopers in the early years of the
Second World War. With Alan Ledd.

Terence Young directs (1) (75194987) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (161) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (628)

4.30 Countdown (T) (3941838) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5059529) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (432)

6.00 TFI Friday With Martine McCutcheon and the England cricketer Darren Gough Plus, The Brian Setzer Orchestra, Ree and Des'ree provide the music (55513) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (357548) 7.55 Bodyscapes Mascara (T) (257258)



Claudia Winkleman hosts a new ifestyle game show (8pm)

CHOICE Trading Up New game show in which two sets of contestants get the chance to trade in their old cars for a better model (1/6) (T) (4180) 8.30 Brookside Sinbad gets an unexpected

visitor (T) (6667) two doctors (r) (T) (1451)

9.30 CHOICE Smack the Pony New series. Officeat sketch starring Floria Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips

(1/7) (T) (30258) 10.00 Frasier A series of good deeds backfire 10.30 So Graham Norton Cornedy (861 109)

11.10 King of the Hill Hank becomes a volunteer firefighter (T) (429797) 11.40 TFI Friday With actress Mertine McCutcheon (r) (832567)

12.45sm 4 Leter Introduction; Pulp (1203407) 1.00 Plava New series. Sounds from the black music scene (9069488) 1.35 The Mod Squad The team investigate the suspicious death of a narcotics

miormant (9078136) 2.35 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (8523952 3.00 The Brides of Fu Manchu (1968) The evil mastermind kichaps the daughters of world leaders. Starring Christopher Lee. Directed by Don Sharp (352310)

4.35 Tha Pretenders: No Turn Left Unstoned (r) (9963556)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (2058398) 7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (8825451) 7.30 Milkshakel (2357277)

7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4336906) 9.00 Havakazoo (r) (2559529)

8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2478600) 9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (2169187) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4118548)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (8485267) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (3398890) 11.10 Leeza (9614659) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2552616)

12.30pm Family Affairs Dave tries to get the better of Pete (r) (T) (1930838) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sally discovers the truth (T) (8824722)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainmen and chat; 5 News Update (1939109) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9818838) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1343426) 3.30 A Change of Place (TVM 1994) A shy

girl agrees to take her glamorous sister's place on the Paris catwalks, little realising the effect it will have on her life. Drama, with Andrea Roth. Directed by Donna Deltch (5940203) 5,20 5 News (74797677)

5.25 Russell Grant's Postcard A visit to St Seriol's Well in Anglesey (r) (75147178) 5.30 100 Per Cent (2155906)

6.00 5 News; Weather (T) (2152819) 6.30 Family Affairs Declar makes a deadly error (T); 5 News Update (2063971)

7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series, starring David Hasselhoff (r) (9716426) 7.30 Nature of Oz Insight into the world of Australia's kookaburra kingfisher (T); 5 News Update (2069155)

8.00 Was it Good for You? Keen motorcycling fans from Penrith in Cumbna and a retired couple from Bath vist Catalonia in north-east Spain (10/14) (9898074) 8.30 Nick's Quest Nick Baker reports on

measures to protect leatherback turties from extinction, visiting nesting colonies the Costa Rica's Playa Grande, and the National Park (5/8) (T) (9617109)

9.00 Evidence of Love (TVM 1990) A teacher looking for excitement embarks on an affair with a churchgoing man leading to a tatal controllation with his wife. Drama, steming Barbara Hershey Brian Dennehy, John Terry and Lee Garlington. Directed by Stephen

Gyllenhaal (T) (81900093) 10.50 Lexic The Dark Zone Stories Sci-fi weirdness, starring Eva Habermann (1/4) (r) (7251141)

11.50 Mailbu Nights (TVM 1996) Two cops discover that there's more to a seemingly routine murder case than meets the eye. Thriller, with Kurt Schwoebel. Directed by

Serge Rodnunsky (8042285) 1.30am Follow the Fleet (1936) Fred Astaire finds romance with Ginger Rogers while on leave from the Navy. Irving Berlin musical, with Randolph Scott and Betty Grable. Mark Sandnch directs (6065759)

3.30 Texas Rangers Ride Again (1940) The Rangers tangle with cattle rustlers. Western sequel, starring John Howard. Directed by James Hogan (82398469) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7770778) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8444285)

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• For further listings see SKY ONE

7.90am Court Duckda (74277) 7.50 The Chris Evens Birestdam Show (88068) 8.30 Hollywood Squaires (47074) 9.00 Sell Jessy Raphael (57181) 18.00 The Oprah Wintery Show (86068) 11.00 Guilly! (62432) Wirtley Stoom (BS068) 11.00 Gush)* (62432)
12.00 Jerry Jones (SS108) 1.00pm Med
About You (73548) 1.30 Jeopem Med
About You (73548) 1.30 Jeopem Med
Jones (S8857) 4.00 Gush)* (89074)
5.00 Star Treb. Voyager (4155) 6.00
America's Durnbest Cerminals (1967) 6.30
Friends (5667) 7.00 The Simpsons (5684)
7.30 The Simpsons (4451) 8.00 Dating Hall
(34068) 9.00 World's Most Shocking
Monterità (10432) 10.80 Cops (59819)
10.30 Cops (68567) 11.00 Pennets (80703)
11.30 Star Treb. Voyager (56600) 12.30em
The Commish (58776) 1.30 Long Play
(1508253)

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SKY PREMIER 5.00am The Boy from Mercury (1995) [98345] 8.00 Forever Love (1996) (42180) 39513) 4.00 Forever Love (1996) (2659 196133 4.00 Forewar Love (1989) (2022) 6.00 Jingle All the Way (1988) (22277) 8.00 Men in Black (1987) (2772) 10.00 The English Patient (1986) (47919432) 12.48am North Star (1986) (4991943) 2.10 The Pope Must Die (1981) (579730) 3.50 Cherokae Kid (1986) (35546681)

5,25em Chellenger (1906) (54383190) 7,90 Too Close to Home (1967) (55526) 9,00 Cinesse Panadao (1968) (31074) 11,00 Seel (1967) (35068 1,00 See Devis (1963) (3590) 2,90 Closes

to Hoste (1987) (57451) 7.00 P.Review (5180) 7.20 UK Top 10 (6819) 8.00 Russbie in the Brown (1996) (48539) 9.30 Jacide Chan's First Strike (1996) (11452) 11.00 Steel (1997) (19638) 12.40em Onsege Doom (1996) (5449861) 2.05 New Jack City (1997) (581975) 3.45 Bloodhounds II (1997) (381933) SKY CINEMA __

4.00pm Desert Ruts (1963) (7932819) 6.00 City Across the River (1940) (2262088) 8.00 McD (1974) (2267513) 10.00 Grantest Show On Earth (1952) (80167884) 12.35am The Fleed Who Walkerd the West (1959) (4530620) 2.20 Valley of Engine (1952) (8597204) 3.45 Along Caine Jones (1953) (26508486) FILMFOUR

6,00pmi. Short Assertion Span Chemis (4887242) 8,00 The Cincinnati Kid (1963) (87062954) 9,40 I Think I Was an Alcoholic (5830600) 10,00 The Duad Zone (1983) (8060428) 12.00 The Brood (1979) (9427730) 1.35am Black Rainbow (1989) (6236566) 3.20 The Kida Are Airight (1978) (18759001) 8.00 Close

TNT 9.00pm WCW Nitro (23101426) 11.35 WCW Trunder (63306819) 2.00mm String Target (1972) (13765827) 3.45 Mack of Fu Macohu (1932) (21026579) 5.06 Close SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport 7.00 Sports Centre
7.15 World Wresting Federator
Supervists 8.15 You're On Sky Sports! 9.00
Racing News 9.30 Associate Oz Skyle 10.00
Spartsh Footbell 11.00 Table Termis 12.00
Aerobios Oz Skyle 12.30pm What A
Westend 1.00 Ice Skating 8.00 US Golf
5.00 Futbol Murdiel 5.30 What A Westend
5.00 Futbol Murdiel 5.30 What A Westend 5.00 Futtor Murrors 3.50 Vinia A Webselli 6.06 Sports Centre 7.00 Live Super League 9.30 World Sport Special 19.00 Sports Centre 11.00 Hold the Back Page 12.00 Sports Centre 1.00em World Westing Federation: Raw 2.00 Super League 4.00 Hold the Back Page 5.00 Sports Centre SKY SPORTS 2 7.00mm Aerdoice Oz Style 7.30 Sports. Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 What A Weskerd 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Trans. World Sport 70.00 US Golf 12.00 los Hockey 2.30mm Formula Three 3.00 What A Westerd 2.30 Shoulds Eventual 8

AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Trans World Sport 5:30 World Sport Special 8.00 The Rugby Club 7.00 Sporish Football 8.00 Mex Power 9.00 Live US Golf 11.00 The Rugby Club 12.00 Super League 1.00mm US Golf 3:00 Sports Centre 4.00 The Rugby Club 8:00 Molo-Plus 5:30 Extreme Saling

11.30am Futures in Sport 12.00 Trans World Sport 1.00pm Footbell League Review 1.30 Futbol Mundel 2.00 Bobby Charton's Footbell Screpbook 3.30 Snow-boarding 4.00 Mex Power 5.00 Watersports World 6.00 Moto-Plus 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour 7.00 Les Steeing 8.00 Moto-Plus 9.30 Externie Saling 18.00 Whesting Federation: Raw 12.00 Coce EUROSPORT

Boxing 18.00 Women's Ten-Pin Bowling 11.00 Exercise Sports 12.00 Showboarding 12.30am Close **UK GOLD**

Prejudice 10.36 Rhoda 11.00 Delies 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EasiEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Delies 2.55 The Bill 2.55 EssiEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 8.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Cricks 7.40 Decre Army 8.20 The Britise Empire 9.00 The Thin Blue Line 9.40 Harry Erfeld and Churre 10.20 Ruly Wax Meets Jane Seymour, Lisa Kudrow and John Goodman 11.00 The Bill 12.00 Doctor Who 1.45sm 8est of the Old Grey Whate Test 2.15 Sight and Sound in Content 2.00 Shopping with Sorsershop

GRANADA PLUS

Benny Hill Show 9.00 The Sweeney 18.00 Haler and Pace 10.30 Wheeltappers and Shunters' Sociel Culo 11.00 Granada Men **CARLTON SELECT**

DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00em Gurint Bears 6.25 Classic Toors 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toors 7.10 Alación 7.35 101 Daimahans 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Classic Toors 6.45 New Advertures of Write the Proh 9.00 The Advertures of Spot 9.05 Animal Shell 9.15 Pociet Deagons 9.20 Bear in the Big Bue House 9.35 The Toothorush Family 10.00 Big State 10.10 Robe and Jim 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Over 11.00 Sasama Sheel 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.08 Ban Animal Sholl 12.15 Pociet Deagon Animal Sholl 12.15 Pociet

Dragons 12.30 Sear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 See Size 1.10 Rose and Jim 1.30 The Big Gerago 1.45 PS and J Otter 2.00 New Adventures 1.45 PB and J Chier 2.60 New Adventures of Winne the Pools 2.50 Quack Pack 3.00 The Utile Membed 3.30 An Alliack 4.00 101 Calmalians 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Ann 5.30 Smarl Quy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meess Word 7.00 FBLIst: Nidi in King Arthur's Court (1996) 8.30 Honey. I Shrunk the Kids. TV Show 9.15 Double Dencears 16.00 Home Improvement 16.30 The Worder Years 11.00 Curried by an Annel 12.00 Chose

8 Otaris Rocko's Modern Life 6.30 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wid Thomberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Chadren's BSC 18.00 Whrase's House 10.30 Papa Beaver Stores 11.00 The Megic School Bus 11.30 PS Bear/Sudgetha Lette Medical Reproductions of the Research Part of the Re Megic School Bus 11.30 PB Beet/Budgethe Little Helcopte/Animal Anticul/Family Ness 12.00 Rigaret 12.30 pm Bus 2 Class 1.00 Barrans in Pyjamas 1.30 Liftle Beer Stores 2.00 Packfordon Beer/Lizzle's Library/Portland BBW Men 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.00 Duig 4.00 Three French and Jerry 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sester Sater 5.30 Kenen and Kel 8.00 Rendord Rejects 6.30 Mocens 7.00 Close BRAVO 8.00pm Martal Law 9.00 Extreme Chemp-ionship Wresting 8.30 Cops 10.00 Lete Lounge 10.30 Eratic Confessions 11.00

NICKELODEON

PRIM: Killer Nan (1973) 1.00em Frotz Confessione 1.30 Late Lounge 2.00 Mental Law 3.00 FILM: The Thomas Crown Attair (1968) 5.00 Externs Chemp-ionship Wrestling 5.30 Cops 8.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Elen 8.30 Son City 9.00 Drop the Dead Dankey 9.30 Whose Line Is it Anyway? 16.00 The Rutics 11.20 Gogs 11.30 The Larry Senders Show 12.00 Late Night with David Laterman 1.00am Text 1,30

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 80m-MICHIGHT ONLY

Magic and Miracles 3.00 Battlestar Gelectica 4.00 The lacredible Hulk 5.00 Sighlarge 8.00 The Ray Bracticus Theatre 6.30 New Afried Hutchcook 7.00 Cusatum Leep 8.00 Amazing Stories 8.30 Highlander: The Raven 9.30 The Hunger 18.00 FULB: Creepetrow (1982) 12.00 FILB: Monatar City (1983) 1.30am The Hunger 2.00 The Guyver 2.30 100 Years of Homor 3.00 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mowgk. The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Verture 1.55 The Incredible Hull 2.20 Iron Mari 2.45 Fantasto Four 3.10 X-Mari 3.30 Fox Kids X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Goseburnes 4.25 Hero Turtles: The Next Mediator 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennes and Grastier 5.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong Country 6.30 Eel/Stravegerta 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroachee 7.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

6.00em Today's Gournet 8.30 You Can Cook — the Best of Asia 7.00 Homemaker 7.30 Period Rooms 8.00 Wedding Slory 6.30 A Baby Slory 8.00 Simply Parang 9.30 The Great Gerdening Pot 10.00 Instant Gerdenis 10.30 Two's Country Cooking 11.00 The Dicernan 11.23 The Home and Ledure House 11.30 Rex Hurd Fiching Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Under 12.30 pm Antiques Trail 1.00 Cur House 1.30 Home Sanu 2.00 New Yankee Under 12.3 april Anaques I feel 1.30 c.m. House 1.30 Home Sawy 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Via 9.00 This Old House with Sleve and Norm 9.30 Charte West Fishing

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 The Car Show 5.00 Hitler 8.00 Wildlife SOS 6.30 Unterned Africa 7.30 Futureworld 8.00 Outback Adventures 8.30 Uncharted Africa 9.00 Test Phots 10.00 Car Theres 11,00 Egyptians 1,00am Hitler 2,00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12.00mm Tho New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30mm Hollywood Saferi 1,30 Crocodie Hunter 2.00 Wild Rescues 2.30 Hurrien/Nisture 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 4.20 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Crocodie Hunter 8.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lessie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Animal X 9.00 Ocen Wildle 9.30 Emisterators Visit 10.00 Norsy Orchards 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 ivory Orphans 11.00 Vet School 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close

4.00pm Vietnam Surrender 5.00 Thomas Edison - Motion Picture 6.00 Africa. A History Denied 7.00 Michael Came CARLTON FOOD

9.00em Food Neswork Daily 9.30 Coxon's Kirchen College 10.00 The Cookshop 10.30 First Teste 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sicc of the Action 12.00 Food Network Delty 12.30pm French Lunch 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 Gordon Rancay's Passon for Flevour 2.00 Can't Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Daily 8.00 Food Factory 3.30 A Stice of the Action 4.00 The Carton London Restaurant

LIVING

8.00am Tiny and Crew 6.20 10 Ptus 2 6.40 Greedysaurus and the Garin 6.45 Philbert the Fing 6.50 Polks Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Castou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barriey and Friends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Tiny Takes 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Special Behavior 9.00 The Parenting 9.00 Special Behavior 9.00 The Parenting 9.00 Special Bables 9.30 The Rossamus Show 18.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 The Heat is On 12.10pm Protch 11.40 The Heat is On 12.70pm Through the keyhole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction 1.46 Mauny Powch 2.10 Special Babies 3.00 Living Room 3.50 Michael Cola 4.40 Through the Keyhole 5.10 The Heat is On 5.40 Ready, Sleady, Cook 8.15 The Jeny Springer Shoot 7.05 Recue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 LA Law 9.00 FILM: This Mutter of Marriage (TVIII 1998) 11.00 The Sex Files II 12.00 Close

5.00mm Mrs Madhun Dedt 5.30 Guldasia 6.00 Sorry Mori Lorry 6.30 Mast Must Show 7.00 Faith: Mustern 7.30 News 8.00 Must 7.00 Faith: Musicn 7.30 News 8.00 Music Mag 8.30 Tare 2 9.00 Achidar 19.00 Yeh Zinke Ka Salar 11.30 Parampara 12.00 Fil.M: Hindi Moviet: Aleg 3.00pm Bangle TV: Nokhather Rat 3.30 h's My Choole 4.00 Akea Bribel 4.30 Zee Zone 5.30 Amanat 6.00 Artist of the Formight 6.30 Zee and You: Showcase 7.00 Chasme Baddoor 7.30 Erleatherment Express 8.00 News 6.30 Aashinwad 5.30 Fil.M: Hindi Movie: Religited: 12.00 News 12.30am Ru-Sa-Fil. Job X-Zone 2.00 Fil.M: Hindi Movie: Anlough

SKY SPORTS 3

7.30em Cat 9.00 Live Sk-Jumping 11.00 Football 1.00 Racing Line 2.00 Live Short Track Speed Seating 4.00 Sk-Jumping 5.00 Football 7.00 Official 8.00 Sturits 9.00

7.50em Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The E8 9.30 Price and Prejudice 10.50 Rhoda 11.00 Dellas 11.55

6.00 cm Writen These Wats 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.20 The Odd Couple 8.00 Families 8.30 The Many Wives of Patrick 9.00 Classic Corneaton Street 9.20 Entracrole Farm 10.00 Upstate 1.00 Upst

Petrick 1.30 Me and My Girl 2.80 Upstairs

worders 2.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The onals 5.00 Hart to Hart 6.00 ale Fami 6,30 Classic Congretion .00 The Professionals 6.00 The



5.00pm What's Cocking? 5.30 Gridook 6.00 My Two Wives 6.30 Cur House 7.00 Shins on Harvey Moon 6.00 Blue Heelers 8.00 Liver Hurts 18.00 The Good Sex Gude 10.30 The Screen 11.00 Hat Street Blues 12.00 My Two Wives 12.30am Gridook 16.00 The Screen Fest 9.00 Coss 1.00 The Last Place on Earth 9.00 Close

11.00 Touched by an Angel 12.00 Close 5,90cm Advertures of Dodo 6,05 Power Rangers Turbo 6,35 Power Rangers Turbo 6,35 Power Rangers Turbo 6,55 Spiderman 7,29 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7,30 Dorkey Kong Country 8,00 Haro Turties: The Neal Matterion 8,25 The Incredible Hulk 8,50 Iron Men 9,15 Fartastic Four 9,40 X-Men 10,05 Casper 10,30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 10,55 ExkStrayegenza 11,05 Bobby's World 11,30 Life with Love 11,55 Home to Rent 12,05 pen Dennis and Grasher 12,30

Fronting 2.00 Or Ketz 2.30 Tibe and Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbott and Costello 4.00 Coste

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Softings 8.00 Bettlester Gelectica 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Ray Bractury Theatre 12.00 The Tudgit! Zone 1.00pm Tales of the

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Sherk Files: Sharks of the Wild Coast 9.00 Meno Luraschi: Magic Horses 10,00 letrics of the Iguaria 11,00 letrics of the Iguaria 12,00 km A Natural History



GOLF 45

Montgomerie struggles to cope with injustices of life

SPORT

BOXING 50 Lewis insists that Holyfield should hand over belts



FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999

Trainer celebrates delayed Gold Cup triumph as favourites falter in Festival showpiece

Nicholls back in business as fortune changes

By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

THE sense of injustice that pervaded Gold Cup day a year ago was finally and emphatically assuaged yesterday. The connections of See More Business will still never know what might have been if their horse had not been so controversially carried out of the race last year. but they now know that they pos-sess the champion that they always believed he would be.

A Tote Gold Cup crowded with elements dramatic, depressing and even dumbfounding resolved itself into a duel up the final hill between two of the neglected horses in a glittering field. Go Ballistic, at 66-l, threatened to become the longest-priced winner since Sirrell Griffilishes bundance his comparation. fiths abandoned his cows for the day to turn out Norton's Coin in 1990, but See More Business, at 16-1, was not to be denied.

His glory, perhaps, had been delayed 12 months when Cyborgo, trained by Paul Nicholls's Somer-set neighbour, Martin Pipe, divert-ed him in a way that caused barely concealed resentment. Little has gone right for See More Business since then, but this was an occasion when application of blinkers was an undeniable factor. His mind was focused, his jumping precise and, when it mattered, he stayed strong to the line.

He won by a length, with the favourite, Ireland's Florida Pearl, a further 17 lengths back in third. For Teeton Mill, carrying the hopes and the cash of much of Britain, the race ended before its halfway point and, sadly, it may be his last. A serious tendon injury brought a swift suggestion of retirement.

There was a cruel frony in Teeton Mill breaking down approaching the downhill fence before the straight, the same fence at which Nick Dundee fell so heavily on Wednesday. These were the potential champions that had teased the loyalties of their jockey. Norman Williamson, when it seemed that Gold Cup. Now, through misfor-

BEATING THE FIELD

ROB WRIGHT, The Times tipster, closed the book on the Festival in style yesterday. He picked out Anzum, the 40-1 winner of the Stayers Hurdle, was the only national newspaper expert to tip See More Business to win the Gold Cup at 16-1 and followed up with Space Trucker at 7-2 in the Grand Annual Chase. The profit on a £1 win treble would be £3,136.50.

wold turf, they are no longer the stuff of dreams but of regretful

Unsinkable Boxer and Suny Bay, the best-backed outsiders on the day, were also pulled up, the former bursting a blood vessel, and Dorans Pride, the other great Irish hope, finished a disappointing eighth, jumping raggedly as Paul Carberry tried to set a searching pace. It meant that the race was made for the serious stayers and See More Business has no defects in that department. Probably, the way the week has gone, we should

GOLD CUP RESULT

3, Florida Pearl

have expected it to turn out this

For this was another steeplechaser trained by Nicholls, part-owned by Paul Barber and ridden by Mick Fitzgerald, and this has been emphatically their Festival. Their confidence in this horse was not as it had been for Call Equiname 24 hours earlier, but the outcome was the same. Fitzgerald, who finished the Festival as the leading jockey might both be aimed at the with four winners, judged his moment immaculately and, at the tunes on the same patch of Cots- last, he demanded everything.

"I needed a long one and thought, 'you're either coming up or going down'," he said. On the long run-in, he exploited intimate knowledge of his rival. "I've won six races on Go Ballistic," he said.

I knew what be was capable of."
Those capabilities had been well hidden of late, at least until his second to Cyfor Malta on this course in January. Go Ballistic had seemed one of the few who, rational-ly, could not win, but as Sheila Lockhart, his owner, said: "No one had told him that."

Oddly, both protagonists in the final duel were their stable's second string. Nicholls's stable jockey, Joe Tizzard, had been given no choice in the Champion Chase, but here he had opted to ride Double Thrill-er, who finished a gallant fourth and is now favourite in most bookmakers' lists for the Grand National on April 10. Go Ballistic was ridden by Tony Dobbin because Richard Johnson was on David Nicholson's more fancied Escartefigue, who trailed in seventh.

Nicholls, though, had been telling anyone who cared to listen that See More Business was no forlorn hope and now here he was, freshfaced and stocky, waiting to meet Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother for the second successive day. Alongside him stood Barber, mop-

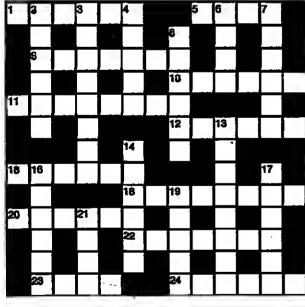
ping his brow with a hand that refused to stop shaking. Barber, a dairy farmer, owns Nicholls's yard and surveys all that happens there from his house at the head of the drive. "I don't know if anyone can know what it feels like," he said. "I thought he was good enough to win last year and I was devastated that he was carried out in that extraordinary manner. To come back and win is a dream

For the pilgrims of Florida Pearl, the dream is at best delayed for a year. He was not the first of Willie Mullins's horses to have disappointed this week and, while youth remains on his side, he is not yet the champion Ireland craves.

ON OTHER PAGES

See More Business lands safely in front of the stands on his way to a famous victory in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday

TIMES TWO



No 1669

ACROSS 1 Arab souk (6) 5 S Pacific canoe (4) 9 Parliamentary record (7) 10 Healthy energy (6) 11 Sculptor's preliminary mod-

12 Disprove (6) 15 Ask for review, be attractive 18 French stick: cut gern (8)

20 Capital of Canada (6) 22 Portia's maid (M of V) (7) 23 Inquisitive (4) 24 Stick and ball game (6)

2 (Hindu) religious community

(6) 3 Proclaim (8) 4 Cook in oven (5) 6 Circus arena; one round Satшт (4) 7 Fine-tune (6)

8 Word modifying adjective (6) 13 Relating to court of law (8) 14 Goneril's husband; NY capi-16 A clog (6)

17 Machine-gun from air (6) 19 Circumference (5) 21 Reference line; centre of rota-

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1668 ACROSS: I Parlance 5 Fair 9 Lofty 10 Onerous 11 Chassis 12 Unfed 13 Tough love 18 Tagus 20 Fishing 22 Proviso 23 Rhino 24 Dusk 25 Credence DOWN: 1 Policy 2 Refract 3 Abyss 4 Cross the floor 6 Aloof 7 Reside 8 Regulo 14 Unsaid 15 Elision

■ 16 Stupid 17 Ignore 19 Gloss 21 Shred

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Hoddle outcasts brought back into fold by Keegan

Brothers in arms Simon Barnes

Anzum proves his stamina

KEVIN KEEGAN declared an England amnesty at Lancaster Gate vesterday and brought the rebeis and the renegades marching back into the squad for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland next week.

The rough diamonds Glenn Hoddle could not handle are being polished again. In a press conference that was an inspiring as it was forthright, Keegan used his first squad announcement as the national team's part-time manager to initiate a sweeping rehabilita-tion of the men left on the outside in the last fractious months of Hoddle's doomed

regime.
There were call-ups for Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker who refused to play for the England B team, for Ray Parlour, the Arsenal midfeld closer who famously midfield player who famously asked Eileen Drewery for a short, back and sides when she offered to lay her hands on him and for Andy Cole, the Manchester United striker, who called Hoddle a coward. In all of those choices, Keegan not only threw down the gauntlet to a group of

supremely talented players with something to prove but he also stamped his authority on the job immediately by emphasising that he is confident of coping with even the strong-est of English football's millionaire personalities. In particular, he said he was

determined to sort out the lingering bitterness that exists between Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux after their prolonged and unsavoury

altercation. Keegan, who picked 24 players rather than the usual 22, stressed that he saw it as a priority to re-establish a feeling of unity and ca-maraderie in the squad. It is even possible that he is considering banishing Le Saux and Powler if they do not patch up their differences, hence the two extra names released yesterday in a list that also re-warded Tim Sherwood for his outstanding form since his move to Tottenham Hotspur.

"I am going to get Le Saux and Fowler in a room together," Keegan said. They have got to, in some way, repair the damage that has been done. We are part of an England squad and the last thing we want is any friction or bad feeling between any players who are playing for the same cause. I'll let you know what happens. I hope I can solve it."

Part of Keegan's magic as a manager is his ability to create an intensely positive atmos-phere around his sides, so it is even more important for him to stamp out internal dissent

GOALKEEPERS: N Marrys (Leeds United), O Seassen (Aversal). DEFENDERS: T Adams (Amerial). S Campbell (Totarhers Holsput). R Fardinand (Avert Hern United). R Gover (Arestel), G Neville (Nambell (Arestel), G Neville (Nambell (Arestel)), G Neville (Nambell (Arestel)), G Seasse (Cheles), A Hanchettle Shelfeld (Nechestle)). G Seasse (Leedel), G Seasse (Leedel), B Seasse (Leedel), G Seasse (Leedel), D Seathann (Nambell (Leedel), D Seathann (Nambell (Leedel), D Seathann (Nambell (Leedel), D Seathann (Nambell (Leedel), D Seasse (Leedel), J Radional (Internam Holsput), J Radional (Internam Ho immediately. He furthered that cause yesterday by refusing to criticise Sutton for his actions, by being candid about the fact that he would have taken Ray Parlour to the World Cup last summer if he had been in charge and by taking an almost childish delight in

ENGLAND SQUAD

He said he had fell like any other England supporter as he

his new duties as England



Keegan radiates optimism while naming his first squad

match at Wembley a week tomorrow that he knows England must win. He doodled

names on a piece of paper before whittling them down to 24 by including only two goalkeepers.
Sutton's name survived. "I think he deserves a second chance. I walked out on Don Revie once. I also threw my shirt off at Wembley when I got sent off so, I can't sit up here and criticise other players too much. You do things under that kind of pressure sometimes that even you don't understand. Chris is 26 and he has still some potential to

fulfil. The next step is to make it into the team." Contrary to much of the advance speculation about the problematic left midfield position, Keegan did not include any natural left- footers like Jason Wilcox, Scott Sellars or Steve Guppy. That suggests he is likely either to move Le Saux forward into midfield or, more probably, to take a gamble on Steve McManaman, who filled that role with such success during the 1996 European championship but seemed to be mistrusted by Hoddle.

If it was starting to look a little like the beginning of The Dirty Dozen, but that image was diluted by the exclusion of Paul Gascoigne, whose chances had been spoiled by recent lack of opportunities to prove his fitness. Keegan was still keen to praise him, though. "I bumped into him at King's Cross just after I got the job." he said. The laughter started then. "Did you trip over him?" someone asked. But Keegan just smiled. He has got his hands full for now.

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